M.Ed. in Reading Education and Reading Endorsement

The Masters of Reading Education is an online degree program designed for PK-12 educators and focuses on literacy and language instruction across all grade levels and content areas. Literacy development, processes, instruction, and research are part of this program. The program meets the standards required by the International Reading Association (IRA), the National Association of Teachers of Colleges (NCATE), and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC). Teachers graduating from this program are required to take the GACE Reading Specialist (parts 117 and 118) that leads to T-5 certification in Reading P-12. The M.Ed. in Reading Education has 100% pass rate on the GACE – Reading Education and holds national recognition from the International Reading Association.

The Reading Endorsement, an online program, is specifically for PreK-12 classroom teachers wishing to add expertise to their current State of Georgia Teacher Certification. The endorsement is designed to help meet the literacy needs of the students, regardless of grade level or content area. The program meets the competencies required by the Professional Standards Commission’s Georgia Reading Endorsement. Emphases include understanding readers and the reading process, linking assessment and instruction, and exploring specific instructional strategies that can be applied in individual classroom contexts.

Program of Study for the M.Ed. in Reading Education - 36 semester hours

Dewar College of Education and Human Services Core - 9 hours
PSYC 7010 Learning and Assessment
READ 7100 Trends & Issues in the Teaching of Reading
RSCH 7100 Research Methodology in Education
READ 5999 Professional Orientation in Reading Education
(During first semester of the program - 0 credit; no cost)

Reading Education Core - 18 hours
READ 7110 Research and Theory in Reading
READ 7120 Word Identification, Vocabulary, and Spelling
READ 7130 Comprehension and Study Strategy Instruction
READ 7140 Methods of Teaching Writing
READ 7150 Issues in Using Literature in the Classroom
READ 7180 Organizing & Supervising a Reading Program
Guided Elective

Practicum Courses - 6 hours
READ 7161 Assessment and Correction of Reading and Writing Difficulties in Grades Pk-5
READ 7171 Assessment and Correction of Reading and Writing Difficulties in Grades 4-12

Program of Study for the Reading Endorsement – 9 semester hours
READ 7100 Trends & Issues in the Teaching of Reading
READ 7130 Comprehension and Study Strategy Instruction
READ 7010 Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Difficulties
Admission Requirements for M.Ed. and Reading Endorsement (Note: See website for GRE or MAT requirements for M.Ed. in Reading. GRE or MAT is not required for the endorsement.)

- Completed Valdosta State University application and application fee of $35.
- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally-accredited institution
- Cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher. Submission of all transcripts.
- Clear/renewable teaching certificate (T-4 or higher) in any field in the State of Georgia or the equivalent for out-of-state applicants.

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Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long does it take to complete the online Master’s in Reading Education program?
   This 12-course, 36 semester hour program can be completed in four semesters, depending upon the number of courses a student is able to successfully complete each semester. For students who are unable to enroll full-time, courses are offered on a continuous basis allowing for part-time enrollment. The majority of the candidates take two courses per semester.

2. What are the admission requirements?
   Applicants must have clear/renewable teaching certificates (T-4) with an overall bachelor’s degree GPA of 2.75 or higher. A student may be admitted for one semester (“Quick Admit”) by completing a VSU application and paying the fee. To continue in the program, the student must provide copies of official transcripts from every college attended and other documents noted on the Quick Admission letter. For the Reading Endorsement, students can enroll as non-degree seeking.

3. Is the program designed as a cohort that determines a specific order for coursework?
   No, students may enter and/or complete the program during any semester.

4. Can required courses be taken in any order or do some courses have prerequisites?
   The only prerequisite is RSCH 7100 must be taken before PSYC 7010. Every course is not offered each semester, so students must take courses according to the scheduled course offerings.

5. Can I transfer credit from another institution into the M.Ed. program?
   A maximum of 9 semester hours of graduate coursework may be considered; credits must be less than 7 years of age at the point of completing the program. Requests for transfer credit prior to entering the M.Ed. program must be documented in the form of an official transcript during the admission process.

6. Is there a certification test that is required after the completion of the program?
   GACE in Reading Education test (parts 117 and 118) is required for graduation and a certificate upgrade.

7. What is the estimated cost for tuition?
   Estimated cost is $12,028** for 4 semesters (36 semester hours). Estimated cost for the Reading Endorsement is $2,954.

**All cost estimates are based on fall, 2014 tuition and fees.

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