

# Master's in Reading and Literacy

The Master of Science in Education in Reading and Literacy (M.S. Ed. in Reading) at Illinois State University is intended for educators teaching reading and writing in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Candidates entering the program have backgrounds in early childhood, elementary, middle level or secondary, or special education. The reading program will prepare candidates to plan reading and writing curriculum, implement language-centered instructional strategies, design effective programs of reading and writing assessment, and design professional development in literacy. The curriculum reflects a research-based approach that integrates reading and writing; emphasizes a holistic, language-centered approach; and helps teachers support all literacy learners in the classroom.

## Career Options

Graduates of the Master of Science in Education in Reading and Literacy program advance their careers in teaching and may pursue careers as reading specialists, school reading/language arts coordinators, literacy coaches, and consultants.

### Reading Teacher Endorsement

The Illinois State Board of Education has identified six areas of study required of all teachers whose major teaching assignment is reading:  
<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Subsequent-Teaching-Endorsements.aspx> All teachers assigned departmentalized responsibility in reading or language arts must meet this 18 semester hour requirement. The reading program offers all course work leading to the endorsement of a reading teacher.

1. Foundations of reading
2. Content area reading
3. Assessment and diagnosis of reading problems
4. Developmental and remedial reading instruction and support
5. Developmental and remedial methods and resources
6. Literature appropriate to the students across all grade ranges
7. Other literacy courses to complete 18 hours

Teachers interested in transcript evaluations should contact their regional school superintendent or complete a subsequent endorsement form.

### Reading Specialist Certificate

The M.S. in Reading and Literacy Program is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for the Reading Specialist Certificate. The program leading to the Specialist Certificate requires the completion of 36 semester hours in reading and related educational areas. Students working on the Reading Specialist Certificate must first have a current teaching certificate and two years of teaching experience.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants in Reading must meet the following requirements:

- a 3.0+ GPA in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work
- a current teaching certificate
- at least two years teaching experience (please indicate the schools and dates in the employer/work section of the online graduate application)
- a brief essay to the supplemental question located in the application materials online
- [a graduate application](#)

### Application deadlines:

Applications are accepted at any time. New applications are reviewed on a monthly basis.

### Taking courses as a Visiting Graduate Student

Candidates may only count up to 12 semester hours of course work completed successfully at Illinois State University as a Visiting Graduate Student.

## Program Requirements

The M.S. Ed. in Reading and Literacy is a 36-hour program that includes a culminating and robust Capstone experience. The courses listed below are required for the program.

### Course Work

Required Courses (27 hours): TCH 452, TCH 455, TCH 462, TCH 463, TCH 464, TCH 465, TCH 467, TCH 471, TCH 474

Electives:

Suggested Elective: TCH 461 or 470.01; although an elective may be chosen from any courses listed in the Graduate Catalog (available online), **except any** course numbered 429.xx. On rare occasions, your advisor may ask you to justify your choice of electives, that is, explain how the topic is compatible with a Master's in Reading and Literacy.

Professional Capstone Experience:

TCH 456 and TCH 466

### Completing the program

As candidates progress toward completing the program, they should keep track of their courses on a Plan of Study. [A degree Audit form](#) must be submitted to the program coordinator via email prior to the last semester of coursework. The candidate needs to meet with an advisor to review accomplishments and timeline. If all courses are completed or in process, and all requirements have or are being met, your advisor will support the Degree Audit and then forward this to the program coordinator for review and submission to the Graduate School.

## Program Contacts and Advisement

Contact	Phone	Email
Coordinator: Dr. Ellis Hurd	(309) 438-5115	<a href="mailto:ehurd@ilstu.edu">ehurd@ilstu.edu</a>

### Advising

Candidates should contact their advisors in the first year in order to help plan future courses. If you are not in your final year of coursework, please make an effort to contact your advisor for a tentative planning meeting.

### Overrides

Certain courses **always** require an override for **all** candidates before admission to the course can be granted. TCH 456 and 466 fall into this category.

Candidates who want to take these courses must contact the professor teaching the course in order to get the override. Advisors do not issue overrides unless they are the professor of record. Overrides due to a course being full are given at the discretion of the instructor teaching the course.

### Transfer Courses

Candidates who believe they have course work that can transfer as elective credit must consult with their advisor, follow graduate school guidelines, and complete the appropriate graduate school form. Courses that were used toward another degree or certificate may not be used as transfer credit. Students may transfer up to 12 semester hours of approved graduate coursework (described in an accredited university's graduate catalog).

Complete the [transfer form](#) on the Graduate School web site. Review the university's transfer rules, fill out the form, and give it to your advisor or the Graduate Coordinator along with the syllabus. If the course content seems to be appropriate, your advisor or the Coordinator will sign the form and submit it to the Graduate School. The Graduate School will confirm whether or not the course meets those university transfer requirements and let us know whether the credits can be accepted.

## Graduate School

As you near the end of your program, please make a habit of checking the

Graduate School website for important information. All necessary dates for completion of your degree are posted. Remember that even if you do not participate in the graduation ceremony, you still must apply for graduation and pay a nominal fee.

- Are you finishing this degree program next semester? If so, please look at the [Graduate School's Web page containing important deadlines](#) for filing your Plan of Study, degree completion application and any other requirements.

### *Degree Audit Form*

Your degree audit, completed in consultation with the graduate coordinator, details the courses that will be used to satisfy your degree requirements. The electronic audit must be submitted to the ISU email account of the Graduate Coordinator of your department and approved by the Graduate School before you can be cleared for graduation.

[Master's Degree Audit](#)

[Graduate School Dates and Deadlines](#): Important degree completion deadlines (PDF)

## **Scholarship**

The Reading and Literacy Master's program has a scholarship for reading candidates. Be sure to look at the College of Education website for information as to deadlines and eligibility.

### *Graduate Teacher Education Students*

In addition to these scholarships, you may be eligible for other awards within your department or major.

- [Spycher Award in Graduate Reading Studies Endowed Scholarship](#)

## **School of Teaching and Learning**

### **Plan of Study for M.S. in Education in Reading and Literacy (effective Fall 2024)**

Current Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_.

Catalog Year: \_\_\_\_\_

UID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree:

M.S. in ED in Reading

Expected Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSFER COURSES and/or SUBSTITUTIONS**

University	Course Number and Title	Substitute For	Hrs.	Grade	Sem/Yr

**CORE COURSES - 27 Semester Hours Required**

Course No.	Substitute For	Course Title	Hrs.	Grade	Sem/Yr
TCH 452		Writing Instruction in PK-12 Classrooms	3		
TCH 462		Connecting Literacy Theory, Research, and Practice	3		
TCH 471		Social and Cultural Contexts of Literacy Teaching & Learning	3		
TCH 463		Classroom Based Literacy Assessment and Instruction	3		
TCH 464		Critical Interpretation and Application of Literacy Research	3		
TCH 474		Reading Literature with Children in the Classroom	3		
TCH 465		Disciplinary Literacies	3		
TCH 467		Equitable Reading Development & Practices	3		
TCH 455		Writing Development Across the Lifespan	3		

**ELECTIVE – 3 Semester Hours**

		Suggested courses: TCH 461 (Digital Literacies), TCH 427 (Biliteracy Development)	3		

**CAPSTONE SEQUENCE – 6 Semester Hours**

**Option 1: Synthesizing Experience**

TCH 456		Professional Learning & Coaching in Literacy	3		
TCH 466		Evaluation & Leadership in Literacy	3		

**OR**

**Option 2: Thesis (for those not interested in Reading Specialist)**

TCH 499			The sis	3		
TCH 499			The sis	3		

**Total Hours (36 minimum)** \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

