

**WATSON SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN LANGUAGE AND LITERACY EDUCATION**

The M.Ed. in Language and Literacy Education addresses the North Carolina Masters/Advanced Competencies which include standards in Instructional Expertise, Knowledge of Learners, Research Expertise, Connecting Subject Matter and Learners, and Professional Development and Leadership. The graduate program incorporates the conceptual framework which is common to all teacher education programs at UNCW: The Watson School of Education develops highly competent professionals to serve in educational leadership roles.

**Program Objectives**

Upon completion of the graduate Language and Literacy Education program, the student will:

1. Understand and expand the definition of literacy to include personal literacy, family literacy, cultural literacy, technological literacy, and literacy in multiple sign systems.
2. Understand the linguistic and orthographic structure of the English language and the functions of and structures of oral and written language discourse.
3. Understand cultural, dialectic, and individual variations of language and communication and their implications for schooling and literacy development.
4. Understand reading and writing as cognitive processes, as communicative events, and as processes of thought.
5. Know how language and literacy emerge in young children and understand the course of reading, writing, and cognitive development during school years, including atypical development and special or handicapping conditions.
6. Know and be able to apply a range of instructional strategies, including the applications of technology, to foster language and literacy development from Pre-K to grade 12.
7. Be able to assess, plan and teach learners of all ages (from pre-K through adult) to foster reading and writing development.
8. Understand the place of literature, phonics, individual and group processes, direct instruction, inquiry, and independent work in a balanced literacy curriculum.
9. Understand school literacy programs, varied approaches to literacy education, and state and national curricula as vehicles and guides to literacy development.
10. Use research and reflection as intellectual tools to advance personal and public knowledge in the areas of literacy and literacy education.
11. Understand the processes of educational change and the role of professional development and collaboration in fostering educational change and the development of cohesive literacy programs.
12. Be able to assume leadership roles and strategies to foster and assist educational change and to develop communities of learners.

## **Important Information**

### **Program Advising**

- ❖ Students are assigned to faculty advisors who are responsible for the administration of the M.Ed. in Language and Literacy program. Therefore, students must meet with their advisors each fall and spring semester to plan program coursework and to receive registration information. Pre-requisites and co-requisites for courses are listed on the Program Sheet and in the Graduate Catalog.
- ❖ The recommended course sequences for the program are included in this program handout. Please refer to this schedule of offerings in planning your program with your advisor. The M.Ed. in Language and Literacy is a five semester program for full-time students. Part-time students can complete the program in ten semesters. Full-time status requires an enrollment of nine credit hours. Part-time status begins with at least four and a half (4.5) credit hours. For more information regarding full-time and part-time status see Graduate Catalogue.
- ❖ Graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon and evening during the fall and spring semesters. In the summer, graduate courses are typically offered during Summer II.
- ❖ Students may take up to 10 semester hours as non-degree students provided they meet the admission requirements. The Language and Literacy Program faculty recommends that non-degree students choose from the following courses: EDN 523, EDN 538, EDN 541, and EDN 551 or electives. These hours may be applied toward the degree upon acceptance as a degree-seeking student. A maximum of 6 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred from another accredited institution in partial fulfillment of the total hours required for the master's degree.
- ❖ The student has 5 calendar years to complete his/her degree program. The five-year period begins with the student's first term of work after formal admission to a degree-granting program.
- ❖ Students must be enrolled in the term in which they complete their graduate work and participate in the comprehensive examination in the semester they are scheduled to receive their degree.
- ❖ Students who have completed all course work for the degree but have not taken the comprehensive exam must enroll in GRC 600 to continue in the graduate program or request a leave of absence from the Graduate School.

### **Program Sequence**

Students may enroll in EDN 538 and 541 and 6 hours of electives at any point in the program. However, the following sequence should be followed for all Specialty Area courses:

1. EDN 551
2. EDN 558/569
3. EDN 584/585
4. EDN 586/587
5. EDN 588
6. EDN 589

This M.Ed. program is designed to provide students with a cumulative understanding of the theoretical beliefs, pedagogical practices, trends, and other related issues in the field of language and literacy education.

In order to be eligible for Comprehensive Exam/Portfolio process, students must have completed all the Specialty Areas courses *or* be in enrolled in the last 2 courses in the Language and Literacy Specialty and Practica Area.

### **Course Substitutions and Transfer Credits**

- ❖ Any variation from the above sequence of courses should be approved by the student's advisor and reviewed by the Language and Literacy Program Committee for decisions regarding substitutions.
- ❖ Students may transfer no more than 6 semester hours of course credit from other universities. However, this should be approved by the advisor and the WSE Associate Dean for Academic Programs prior to taking the course/s. Students must send official transcripts in order to receive transfer credit.

### **Elective Credits**

- ❖ International courses will be used as program electives and/or as a substitution for EDN 509.
- ❖ EDN 591 and 595 courses will be used as electives. The purpose of these independent studies and special topics courses are to enhance a student's knowledge and understanding in a selected area and/or to provide opportunities for enrichment or intensive study.
- ❖ Students who have earned National Board status may request a waiver of 3 hours of elective credit by providing appropriate documentation (i.e., copy of NCPTS score report or ACE transcript) to the WSE Graduate Coordinator.

### **Application for the Comprehensive Exam/Portfolio Process**

Applications for the Comprehensive Exam/Portfolio presentations are available on the Watson School's website: [www.uncw.edu/ed](http://www.uncw.edu/ed). The application for spring comprehensive examination is December 15<sup>th</sup>, and the application for fall comprehensive examination is May 15<sup>th</sup>. Comprehensive exams are not offered in the summer.

### **Application for Graduation**

Applications for graduation are available online at [www.uncw.edu/grad](http://www.uncw.edu/grad). There is no fee for the application. Summer and fall graduation applications are due April 15 and spring graduation applications are due November 15<sup>th</sup>. Any changes in expected graduation dates after application should be reported to the Graduate School.

### **Advanced Licensure in Reading**

The M.Ed. in Language & Literacy Education requires that students have North Carolina "A" licensure in at least one area of education prior to admission. Upon completion of the program, students are recommended for "M" level licensure as a Reading Specialist. Passing the appropriate Praxis Specialty Test is encouraged.

### **Graduate Assistantships**

Graduate assistantships are available in the Watson School of Education. The positions provide employment for 20 hours per week working as research assistants with faculty members or as assistants in the Ed Lab, Technology Lab, or Curriculum Materials Center. For additional information, contact the Graduate Coordinator (Associate Dean for Academic Programs) in the Watson School of Education at 910-962-4142.

**Watson School of Education**  
**University of North Carolina Wilmington**

**MASTER OF EDUCATION IN LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**

The program leading to the Master of Education degree (M. Ed.) in Language and Literacy (i.e., reading) education provides advanced professional training for individuals holding, or qualified to hold, North Carolina Class "A" teacher licensure in at least one area of education. The 39-semester hour program is comprised of six semester hours of core courses, 21 hours in the specialization, 6 hours of practica, and 6 hours of electives. Based upon the view of the professional as a decision-maker, the program addresses the needs for conceptual and procedural bases for decision-making, for specific practices, and for structured reflection.

**Program of Study**

**I. Core (6 hours)**

- EDN 523            Research in Education
- Choice of one of the following:
- SED 556            Seminar on Families, Diversity, and Collaboration
- EDN 509            Education in a Multicultural Context
- EDN 552            Introduction to Gifted Education
- EDN 5XX            ESL in the Mainstream

**II. Language and Literacy Specialty (21 hours)**

- EDN 538            The Teaching of Writing and Other Forms of Representation
- EDN 541            Role of Literature in Learning and the Curriculum
- EDN 551            Exploring your own Literacy and Literacy Education
- EDN 558            Language and Literacy Foundations
- EDN 569            Seminar in Language and Literacy Foundations (coreq: EDN 558)
- EDN 584            Development of Language and Literacy (prereq: EDN 558 & 569)
- EDN 585            Seminar in Development of Language and Literacy (coreq: 584)
- EDN 586            Program Practices and Procedures in Language and Literacy (prereq: EDN 584)
- EDN 587            Seminar in Program Practices and Procedures in Language and Literacy (coreq: EDN 586)

**III. Practica (6 hours)**

- EDN 588            Assessment in Language and Literacy (prereq: EDN 586)
- EDN 589            Tutoring in Literacy Development (prereq: EDN 588)

**IV. Electives (6 hours)**

Six hours of electives appropriate to language and literacy education as approved by the advisor.

Note: Each student is required to complete an action research project and an educational change project, and to develop a portfolio representative of his/her learning prior to the completion of the program as a part of the required comprehensive examination process.

### **Graduate Level Licensure in Reading**

Students qualify for recommendation for graduate level licensure in reading by completing the M.Ed. in Language and Literacy Education. Passing the appropriate Specialty Area examination is encouraged but no longer required for persons earning the M.Ed. Individuals who hold a master's degree in education in a related area may qualify to be recommended for graduate level add-on licensure in reading by completing 18 additional hours of approved course work. The Praxis II Specialty Test is required for add-on licensure, and UNCW must be coded as a score recipient.

University of North Carolina at Wilmington is committed to and will provide equality of educational and employment opportunity for all persons regardless of race, sex, age, color, gender, national origin, ethnicity, creed, religion, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, marital status, veteran status or relationship to other university constituents – except where sex, age, or ability represent bona fide educational or occupational qualifications or where marital status is a statutorily established eligibility criterion for state-funded employee benefit programs.