

Graduate Information for Prospective Literacy Graduate Students

Each program is designed to prepare practicing and prospective teachers who are committed to improving literacy skills of his or her students. Our programs are accredited and fulfil standards/competencies governed by the International Literacy Association (ILA), Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

Our graduate students learn from a curriculum that emphasizes the importance of assessing students' literacy strengths and needs, and using that assessment to design appropriate instruction that focuses on word-level knowledge, fluency, vocabulary development, comprehension, and writing. Our students also learn the importance of basing literacy instruction in children's literature, honoring learners' multicultural diversity, and helping learners develop 21st Century literacy skills.

Students who have completed our graduate reading programs gain the expertise they need to develop and implement successful literacy and language interventions for students needing extra support in strengthening their reading skills.

Graduate Program Admission Requirements:

Admission requirements for all graduate programs in Literacy:

- Undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on the last 48 credits earned and minimum of 2.8 for all undergraduate courses
 - graduate GPA will be considered over undergraduate GPA for students already possessing a master's degree.
 - students who do not meet GPA requirements must submit GRE or Miller Analogy Test (MAT) scores.
- Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate
- Initial teaching certification
- Two letters of professional recommendations

In addition to these requirements, students applying for the Literacy Coaching Endorsement must have:

- An Instructional II Certificate
- Reading Specialist Certification
- Minimum of three years' teaching experience

Application Procedures:

[You can apply online!](#)

Complete an application and submit all items (listed below) to the [Graduate Office](#).

1. Two complete **transcripts** and **proof of degree** sent to the Graduate Office.
 - In order for your application to be processed, two transcripts from all institutions of undergraduate (and graduate) coursework must be received by the Graduate Office.
2. Goals statement
3. Copy of PA Instructional I Certificate
4. Two letters of professional or academic recommendations

Deadlines for program applications: This program has rolling admissions.

However, for scheduling purposes, we recommend that applications are submitted two months before the semester starts.

- Students may also [apply as a Non-degree student](#) and take up to 9 credits of coursework before being formally admitted to a graduate program. Non-degree students who are interested in Reading typically take EDR 505, 507, and 509.
- Non-degree and West Chester University students of other programs wishing to transfer into a Reading graduate program must formally request a transfer by [contacting Graduate Admissions](#).

[If you miss the application deadlines, or you're a Non-Degree student:](#)

[Apply as a Non-degree](#) student right now through the Graduate Studies' website. Your application will be processed within 24 hours so you can begin registering for courses as soon as possible.

As a Non-degree student you may take up to 9 credits before having to transfer into a program. Once you have completed nine credits and are ready to transfer, you must contact Graduate Admissions.

Non-degree students interested in matriculating into any of our Literacy graduate programs should take:

- EDR 505
- EDR 507 (this is an online course)
- EDR 509

These will count towards any of the three graduate programs Literacy has to offer. Neither EDR 505, 507, nor 509 have any pre-requisites.

If you are a Non-degree student and have questions about transfer equivalency credits, and are still unsure about what to take, email the Literacy Department's Graduate Coordinator, Dr. Diane Santori (DSantori@wcupa.edu). Be sure to state your question and also provide your name, phone number, and good time for her to reach you (so she can call you). To prepare for your phone call, have ready: your ID number and some transcript/course description information of your previously completed coursework in question.