

**Undergraduate Literacy Program: Reading Specialist K-12 Endorsement**  
**Department of Curriculum and Instruction**  
**The University of Montana-Missoula**

The Literacy Program offers at the undergraduate level the State of Montana Reading Specialist K-12 Endorsement. This endorsement is in addition to initial licensure. Candidates must have full admission into the Teacher Education Program before applying for admission to this program. Licensed teachers may apply for this endorsement as post-baccalaureate students.

The program is comprehensive. Based on the Montana Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards, candidates will: (a) demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of reading and writing processes and instruction; (b) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of individual, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity in the teaching process; (c) demonstrate instructional practices, approaches, methods, and curriculum materials to support reading and writing instruction; (d) demonstrate assessment tools and practices to plan and evaluate effective reading instruction; and (e) integrate knowledge and practices to monitor and evaluate the reading program and student learning.

The Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences at The University of Montana is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Montana State Board of Public Education. Via a reciprocal agreement, the International Reading Association sanctions this endorsement. These accreditations support the institution's initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator preparation programs.

For questions about the Reading Specialist K-12 Endorsement, please contact the following literacy faculty:

Jan LaBonty, Ph.D.  
Office: PJW Education Center 309  
(406) 243-5161  
Jan.LaBonty@mso.umt.edu

Kate Brayko, Ph.D.  
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**Admission to the Undergraduate Literacy Program**

1. Schedule an advising interview with a literacy education professor prior to taking any courses beyond EDU 497 or EDU 481. The interview will include:
  - a) scheduling courses,
  - b) completion of the program plan, and
  - c) discussion of prior teaching experience.
2. File three copies of the signed program plan within ten days after the initial interview to the following: literacy education advisor, academic advisor, and licensure specialist. The candidate keeps the original.
3. Submit to the literacy advisor an autobiographical sketch of 350-500 words that presents your reasons for earning the reading endorsement and your prior teaching or educational experiences.

**Prerequisites for the Program Capstone Course (EDU 456 or C&I 557)**

1. Completion of EDU 497, EDU 481, and EDU 438 with at least a 3.5 grade point average (grade slips or memo from the instructor must be supplied).
2. The semester prior to enrolling in EDU 456 or C&I 557 and using the form found on page four of this packet, submit to the literacy education advisor three letters of recommendation from university faculty members and/or public school teachers and/or supervisors who can attest to your ability to work with children.
3. The semester prior to the practicum, schedule an interview with the literacy education advisor. The interview will focus on the candidate's knowledge of:
  - a. Foundations of reading and writing processes and instruction,

- b. Individual, cultural, linguistic, and ethnic diversity in the teaching process,
- c. Instructional practices, approaches, methods, and curriculum materials to support reading and writing instruction,
- d. Assessment tools and practices to plan and evaluate effective reading instruction, and
- e. Integrating knowledge and practices to monitor and evaluate the reading program and student learning.

If the candidate is deficient in any of the above, the literacy advisor reserves the right to require remediation of those deficiencies. The literacy advisor may deny enrollment in the practicum. Qualified candidates, according to the date of initial application, fill openings for the literacy practicum.

### **The Literacy Portfolio**

In order to demonstrate literacy outcomes, candidates earning the Reading Specialist K-12 Endorsement will compile a literacy portfolio. Reflecting on submitted coursework, the candidate will select one signature piece from each required literacy course. The Literacy Portfolio reflects the outcomes of the Reading Specialist K-12 Endorsement.

### **Exit Requirements for the Reading Specialist K-12 Endorsement**

The candidate meets with the literacy education advisor to verify the following:

1. Completion of all required literacy courses (or approved substitutes) with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0;
2. Completion of the Student Assessment Profiles from EDU 456 or C&I 557 with an earned grade of B or better; and
3. Completion of the International Reading Association Professional Reading Standards Competency Checklist.
4. All candidates must take and pass the Praxis II Content Knowledge Test: Reading (test number 0204) with a minimum passing score of 159. See the Licensure Specialist for details.

**Upon successfully completion of the exit requirements, the candidate must meet with the Licensure Specialist to complete necessary paperwork for the State of Montana Reading Specialist K-12 Endorsement.**

## Undergraduate Literacy Program: Tentative Program of Study

Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a current teaching license? Yes No      If yes, what state(s) and subject(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been admitted to the Teacher Education Program? Yes No N/A      If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Course	Offered	Cr.	Taken	Will Take	Grade
EDU 331 Literature & Literacy for Children	Fall, Spring	3			
EDU 432 Literature & Literacy for Young Adults	Spring	3			
EDU 397 Methods:PK-8 Language Arts	Fall, Spring	3			
EDU 497 Methods: PK-8 Reading	Fall, Spring	3			
EDU 481 Literacy Strategies in Content Area <b>OR</b> C&I 527 Advanced Literacy Strategies in Content Area*	Fall, Spring  Fall	3			
EDU 438 Literacy Asmnt, Diagnosis & Instruction <b>OR</b> C&I 533 Advanced Diag./Corr. of Reading and Writing*	Spring  Summer, odd	3			
EDU 441 Organizing the Reading/Writing Programs <b>OR</b> C&I 543 Supervision and Teaching Reading*	Fall  Summer, odd	3			
EDU 456 Application of Literacy Models K-12	Summer  Summer	6			
<b>Total Credits (27 required):</b>					

\*Seniors with a 3.0 GPA may take graduate level courses

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

Candidate signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Letter of Recommendation Form for the Literacy Practicum

The candidate should provide the evaluator with a stamped envelope addressed to: Literacy Advisor, Phyllis J. Washington College of Education and Human Sciences, The University of Montana, 32 Campus Drive, Missoula, MT 59812-6346

Candidate's name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

This recommendation is:  Confidential  Non-confidential

\_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
In what capacity do you know the candidate? \_\_\_\_\_

Rank the following attributes from 5 to 1 where 5 is the highest.	5	4	3	2	1
Flexibility in learning new concepts					
Organization and management skills					
Enthusiasm					
Clarity of oral and written expression					
Ability to work with students					
Models professional behavior					
General level of knowledge regarding literacy instruction					

Additional comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluator's name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evaluator's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address