LITERACY

Program Director:
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Introduction
The Canisius College graduate literacy programs lead to a master’s degree in literacy for either Birth-Grade 6 or Grades 5-12. The program also prepares students to meet New York State requirements for certification as a literacy specialist. Coursework for each program includes 33 hours of study, and candidates have the option of completing 9 hours of additional coursework to qualify for certification in both age groups. Coursework also includes two practicum experiences that involve working with children in a clinical setting, specifically testing and tutoring in literacy skills (e.g. reading and writing). Candidates do not need to come to campus to complete their practicums and can usually fulfill these practicum requirements in one of the school districts of their choice. More information can be found at the Literacy Program website (https://www.canisius.edu/academics/programs/literacy-education/).

Admissions Requirements
• Free Online Application (https://go.applycanisius.org/) - The application includes a 300 word essay.
• Official Bachelor’s Degree Transcript. Unofficial or in progress transcripts are acceptable to begin the admissions review process. Applicants for the Fall 2016 semester and beyond will be expected to have a 3.0 undergraduate GPA. Applicants with less than a 3.0 undergraduate GPA will undergo additional review.
• Test Scores. All applicants will be required to submit Graduate Records Examination (GRE), Millers Analogies Test (MAT), OR Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST), test scores.
• Two Letters of Recommendation. Letters can be personal, professional or academic references.
• Evidence of teaching certification
• Canadian and other international applicants must provide a completed Certification of Finances form.

Field experiences in the Online Programs
In the curriculum, a 50 hour field experience is noted for two courses. The first field experience is completed in a 6 credit block with EDR 601 (Birth-Grade 6) Diagnosis and Diagnostic Block or EDR 602 (Grades 5-12) Diagnosis and Diagnostic Block. The second field experience, the Advanced Practicum, EDR 603 (Birth-Grade 6) or EDR 604 (Grades 5-12) is a 3 credit course that includes supervision.

Curriculum
Online Curriculum for Professional Certification in Literacy, Birth – Grade 6

Program Details

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<tr>
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<tr>
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Total Credits: 33-42

Required Certification Exams for Initial Certification
New York State Teachers Certification Exams (NYSTCE)
• CST: Content Specialty Test (Literacy)

Completion of Graduation Portfolio Requirement
Candidates will use Task Stream to complete graduate portfolio requirements. Course instructors will also designate that certain assignments be included in the portfolio.

Curriculum
Online Professional Certification in Literacy, Grades 5 - 12

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Learning Goals & Objectives

Learning Goal 1
Candidates in the literacy program will demonstrate knowledge of the major theoretical, conceptual, pedagogical, and evidence-based foundations of literacy and language and the ways in which they interrelate.

Candidates will:

• Increase their understanding of developmentally appropriate practices to promote learners' growth in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and visually representing.

• Increase their understanding of and ability to implement a variety of formative and summative assessment practices in the field of literacy.

• Increase their awareness of digital and print texts that can be used to support students' literacy growth, embracing texts that represent cultural and linguistic diversity.

Learning Goal 2
Candidates in the literacy program will demonstrate professional knowledge, skills, and dispositions as they engage in the selection/development and implementation of literacy curricula and assessment to support a diverse population of learners.

Candidates will:

• Increase their ability to examine, design, implement, and reflect upon language and literacy curricula to create motivating and engaging learning experiences for students of varying ages and skill levels.

• Increase their ability to create and use integrated and interdisciplinary instructional approaches to promote student growth and engagement in all language processes.

• Increase their ability to collect and use data in an ethical manner to explain student progress to stakeholders, reflect upon their professional practice, and make informed instructional decisions.

Learning Goal 3
Candidates in the literacy program will demonstrate willingness to use their skills to benefit and serve society. Within the contexts of their work, candidates promote authentic learning, social and emotional development, and a commitment to social justice in environments that fosters respect for diversity and the dignity of all.

Learning Goal 4
Candidates in the literacy program will demonstrate self-reflection as a habit of mind, continuously assessing and refining their professional practice as they construct a rich repertoire of research-based knowledge, skills, and attitudes for effective performance ensuring that all students and/or clients have optimal opportunities to learn and grow.

Candidates will:

• Increase their ability to reflect on their own cultural and professional experiences as a means of appreciating diversity and fostering individual and school growth.

• Increase their understanding of a variety of practices, grouping configurations, and environmental characteristics that can be used to enhance literacy development.

Learning Goal 5
Candidates in the literacy program are life-long learners who reflect upon their practice, engage in ongoing professional development, and advocate for their students and communities.

Candidates will:

• Increasingly demonstrate the professional disposition of a life-long learner by engaging in professional inquiry and participating in professional learning communities.

• Increase their ability to develop relationships with and advocate for students, families, and communities to enhance literacy learning and the status of the teaching profession.

Courses

EDR 501 Reading and Writing in the Content Areas 3 Credits
Strategies for teaching and developing young children's skills in effectively applying literacy skills as tools for learning in content areas will be examined. Candidates will develop materials and procedures, that enhance comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, and study skills of diverse populations of learners. Various measures for assessing children's performance in subject areas will be studied. Children's literature that supplements textbooks across the content areas will be examined.
Offered: every fall & summer.

EDR 502 Foundations of Literacy 3 Credits
Research-based foundational principles for effective instruction in each of the language areas will be explored. Candidates will study the historical trajectory of literacy research and instruction, learn strategies for literacy instruction with diverse populations of learners, create lesson plans that apply instructional techniques, select materials based on children's literacy level and interests, and examine various assessment measures. Multiple genres of children's literature along with applications in literacy instruction will be explored.
Offered: every fall & spring.
EDR 503 Reading in the Secondary School 3 Credits
The effective application of literacy skills as tools for teaching secondary level content areas to diverse populations will be examined. Candidates will develop materials and procedures that enhance comprehension. Integration of content and skills across subjects will be emphasized as well as methods to meet specific needs of students, including the use of multiple measures of assessment, diverse genres of literature, and various interventions in literacy instruction. Offered: fall & summer.

EDR 601 Birth-Grade 6: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum 6 Credits
Candidates will explore theories and conduct in-depth literacy assessments, using both formal and informal age-appropriate measures. Candidates will examine administrative procedures and the interpretation of results for multiple assessment instruments, including diagnostic and achievement tests, reading inventories, observations, and anecdotal records. The diagnostic teaching model will be introduced and traditional remediation and intervention theories will be explored as candidates work with struggling readers during their initial clinical practicum. Prerequisite: EDR 501, EDR 502, EDR 508, & EDR 509. Offered: every fall & spring.

EDR 602 Grade 5-12: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum 6 Credits
Candidates will explore theories and conduct in-depth literacy assessments using both formal and informal age-appropriate measures. Candidates will examine procedures and the interpretation of results for multiple assessment instruments, including diagnostic and achievement tests, reading inventories, observations and anecdotal records. The diagnostic teaching model will be introduced. Traditional remediation and intervention theories will be explored as candidates work with struggling readers during their initial clinical practicum. Prerequisite: EDR 502, EDR 503, EDR 504, & EDR 509. Offered: every fall & spring.

EDR 603 Advanced Practicum: Birth-Grade 6 3 Credits
Candidates observe and fully participate as an intern in reading clinics, schools, or public and voluntary agencies serving children who are experiencing literacy problems. Candidates will refine proficiencies in instruction and assessment, organization, and enhancement of a literacy curriculum as they work with a professional team at the site. Candidates will serve as a resource for literacy instruction; they will also prepare staff development for professionals at the site based on a survey of teachers’ interests/needs. Prerequisite: EDR 601. Offered: every fall & spring.

EDR 604 Advanced Practicum: Grades 5-12 3 Credits
Candidates observe and fully participate as an intern in reading clinics, schools, or public and voluntary agencies serving children who are experiencing literacy problems. Candidates will refine proficiencies in instruction and assessment, organization, and enhancement of a literacy curriculum as they work with a professional team at the site. Candidates will serve as a resource for literacy instruction; they will also prepare staff development for professionals at the site based on a survey of teachers’ interests/needs. Prerequisite: EDR 602. Offered: every fall & spring.

EDR 606 Research in Reading 3 Credits
The course will include an examination of research on teaching in general and teaching literacy in particular. It will explore perspectives and questions on contrasting paradigms, implications of this research for curriculum, instruction, policy and practice, and teacher education and professional development. Each candidate will plan a research project consistent with his/her interests and with the course goals. Prerequisite: EDR 515. Offered: every fall & spring.