

LITERACY (MSED AND ADVANCED CERTIFICATE) - ONLINE

Program Director: Kayla Zimmer, PhD

Please note: New York State is transitioning to an All Grades Certification. Students matriculating in Fall 2023 or later will be enrolled in the All Grades Certification. Students who matriculated in Fall 2022 or before should follow the curriculum for the catalog year in which they matriculated. Students who wish to switch to the All Grades certification should contact their advisor.

Introduction

The Canisius University graduate literacy program leads to a Master of Science in Education - Literacy. The program prepares students to meet New York State requirements for the Literacy (All Grades) certification. Coursework for the program includes 33 hours of study and two practicum experiences. Candidates do not need to come to campus to complete their practicums and can usually fulfill these practicum requirements in a school district of their choice.

Admissions Requirements

- Free Online Application (<https://www.canisius.edu/apply-canisius/>) - 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.
- 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.

Grade Requirements

Graduate students enrolled in initial certification programs must achieve a C or above in all course requirements and a B- or above in all graduate program coursework. Failure to meet these requirements will require repeating the course &/or completing additional coursework.

Field experiences in the Online Programs

Candidates will complete a minimum of 50 hours of clinical practicum. Candidates do not need to come to campus to complete their practicum field experiences.

Curriculum - MSED in Literacy (All Grades)

For students matriculating Fall 2023 or later

Code	Title	Credits
EDR 501	Reading and Writing in the Content Areas	3
EDR 502	Foundations of Literacy	3

EDR 503	Reading in the Secondary School	3
EDR 507	Reading to Grow: K-12 Literature & Social Justice	3
EDR 508	Emergent Literacy	3
EDR 509	Teaching Literacy with Diverse Population	3
EDR 510	Creating a Literate Environment	3
EDR 600	Literacy Curriculum and the Role of the Reading Specialist	3
EDR 601	PreK-4: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum	3
EDR 604	Advanced Practicum: Grades 5-12	3
EDU 615	Research Methods	3
Total Credits		33

Field Experience in the all-grades program

Candidates complete two 25-hour practicum field experiences. The first field experience is completed in EDR 601 (PreK-Grade 4) Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum. The second field experience is in EDR 604 Advanced Practicum: Grades 5-12. Candidates do not need to come to campus to complete their field experiences.

Curriculum - MSED in Literacy (Birth - Grade 6)

This program has been discontinued; New York State is transitioning to a Literacy (All Grades) Certification. Students who matriculated in Fall 2022 or before should follow the curriculum for the catalog year in which they matriculated. Students who wish to switch to the program leading to Literacy (All Grades) certification should contact their advisor.

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

Program Details

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
EDR 502	Foundations of Literacy	3
EDR 509	Teaching Literacy with Diverse Population	3
EDR 510	Creating a Literate Environment	3
EDR 515	Introduction to Research ¹	3
EDR 600	Literacy Curriculum and the Role of the Reading Specialist	3
EDR 616	Research in Reading ¹	3
Additional Courses		
EDR 501	Reading and Writing in the Content Areas	3
EDR 505	Reading to Grow: Children's Literature & Social Justice	3
EDR 508	Emergent Literacy	3
EDR 601	PreK-4: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum	3
EDR 603	Advanced Practicum: Birth-Grade 6	3
Total Credits		33

¹ EDU 615 May be substituted for this course

Code	Title	Credits
Optional		
To Add Grade 5-12 Certification		
EDR 504	Adolescent Literacy	3
EDR 604	Advanced Practicum: Grades 5-12	3
Total Credits		6

Curriculum - MSEd in Literacy (Grades 5-12)

This program has been discontinued; New York State is transitioning to a Literacy (All Grades) Certification. Students who matriculated in Fall 2022 or before should follow the curriculum for the catalog year in which they matriculated. Students who wish to switch to the program leading to Literacy (All Grades) certification should contact their advisor.

Online Professional Certification in Literacy, Grades 5 - 12

Program Details

Code	Title	Credits
Required Core Courses		
EDR 502	Foundations of Literacy	3
EDR 509	Teaching Literacy with Diverse Population	3
EDR 510	Creating a Literate Environment	3
EDR 515	Introduction to Research ¹	3
EDR 600	Literacy Curriculum and the Role of the Reading Specialist	3
EDR 616	Research in Reading ¹	3
Additional Courses		
EDR 503	Reading in the Secondary School	3
EDR 504	Adolescent Literacy	3
EDR 506	Reading to Grow: Adolescent Literature & Social Justice	3
EDR 602	Grade 5-12: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum	3
EDR 604	Advanced Practicum: Grades 5-12	3
Total Credits		33

¹ EDU 615 May be substituted for this course

Code	Title	Credits
Optional		
To add B-6 Certification		
EDR 508	Emergent Literacy	3
EDR 603	Advanced Practicum: Birth-Grade 6	3
Total Credits		6

Curriculum - Advanced Certificate (B-6)

Code	Title	Credits
EDR 501	Reading and Writing in the Content Areas	3
EDR 502	Foundations of Literacy	3

EDR 505	Reading to Grow: Children's Literature & Social Justice	3
EDR 508	Emergent Literacy	3
EDR 509	Teaching Literacy with Diverse Population	3
EDR 601	Birth-Grade 6: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum	3
Total Credits		18

Roadmap

First Year		
Fall	Spring	Summer
EDR 502	EDR 509	EDR 505
EDR 508	EDR 601	EDR 501

Field Experience in the advanced certificate program

Candidates in the advanced certificate program complete 50 hours of field experience in EDR 601 (PreK-Grade 4) Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum. Candidates do not need to come to campus to complete their practicum field experiences.

Courses

EDR 501 Reading and Writing in the Content Areas 3 Credits

Strategies for teaching and developing 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 literacy performance in subject areas will be studied. Literature that supplements textbooks across the content areas will be examined.

Offered: once a year.

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: once a year.

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: once a year.

EDR 504 Adolescent Literacy 3 Credits

Candidates will address the literacy needs of an increasingly diverse middle childhood and adolescent school population. Candidates will explore the factors influencing literacy education in the secondary school and become familiar with effective diagnostic teaching strategies appropriate for this diverse population.

Offered: fall & summer.

EDR 505 Reading to Grow: Children's Literature & Social Justice 3 Credits

Students in this course will learn how to select, read, evaluate, and analyze children's literature with the goal of supporting readers and teaching critical thinking. Through various genres of children's literature, candidates will develop an informed awareness of the ways in which children's literature can be used to support multilingual learners, nurture struggling readers, and promote social justice in the classroom. Candidates will learn to use children's literature to foster student awareness of and appreciation for diverse and complex cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Candidates will also examine various pedagogical practices and theoretical stances related to equity, linguistic diversity, social justice, and societal transformation.

Offered: occasionally.

EDR 506 Reading to Grow: Adolescent Literature & Social Justice 3 Credits

Students in this course will learn how to select, read, evaluate, and analyze adolescent texts with the goal of supporting readers and teaching critical thinking. Through various genres, candidates will develop an informed awareness of the ways in which texts can be used to support multilingual learners, nurture struggling readers, and promote social justice in the classroom. Candidates will learn to use adolescent literature to foster student awareness of and appreciation for diverse and complex cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Candidates will also examine various pedagogical practices and theoretical stances related to equity, linguistic diversity, social justice, and societal transformation.

Offered: every fall & spring.

EDR 507 Reading to Grow: K-12 Literature & Social Justice 3 Credits

Students in this course will learn how to select, read, evaluate, and analyze children's and adolescent literature with the goal of supporting readers and teaching critical thinking. Through various genres of literature, candidates will develop an informed awareness of the ways in which literature can be used to support multilingual learners, nurture struggling readers, and promote social justice in the classroom. Candidates will learn to use literature to foster student awareness of and appreciation for diverse and complex cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Candidates will also examine various pedagogical practices and theoretical stances related to equity, linguistic diversity, social justice, and societal transformation.

Offered: once a year.

EDR 508 Emergent Literacy 3 Credits

Research on the emergence of children's literacy knowledge and structures that enhance this development will be studied. Implementation of the science of reading through lessons and programs for a diverse population of children will be a focus. Multiple measures of assessment, effective early intervention models, and multiple genres of literature with applications in literacy instruction will be explored.

Offered: once a year.

EDR 509 Teaching Literacy with Diverse Population 3 Credits

Strategies for effective literacy instruction with diverse populations will be examined. These include research-based approaches for special education students, ESL/LEP students and gifted and talented students. Candidates will examine how to match instruction to students' needs and how to incorporate differentiated instruction in a classroom. Multicultural literature and literature that deals with specific disabilities will be examined. Candidates create a comprehensive curricular unit that is ready to be implemented in a classroom of diversity.

Offered: once a year.

EDR 510 Creating a Literate Environment 3 Credits

Instructional techniques for concurrently developing skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing as well as specific models for instruction that meet diverse needs and interests at all levels will be examined. Organizational components of an effective reading and writing classroom will be explored along with methods for providing a print-rich environment that spans a broad spectrum of reading levels, genres and interests.

Offered: every summer.

EDR 515 Introduction to Research 3 Credits

Descriptive and inferential statistical methods, quantitative and qualitative methods, research models, procedures for designing research studies and ethical principles will be studied. Candidates will also analyze literacy research studies that incorporate the various statistical procedures studied.

Offered: occasionally.

EDR 600 Literacy Curriculum and the Role of the Reading Specialist 3 Credits

Procedures for planning, evaluating and implementing curriculum at the school district level that address state and local mandates will be explored. Multiple resources that can be used in the implementation of curriculum will be examined. The role that the literacy specialist plays in coordinating this process, guiding the selection of instructional materials, and determining appropriate in-service will be examined.

Offered: once a year.

EDR 601 PreK-4: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum 3 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. Course includes 25 hours of field work for a combined 50 hours of fieldwork with EDR 604: Advanced Practicum (Grades 5-12).

Prerequisite: EDR 501, EDR 502, EDR 508, & EDR 509.

Offered: every fall & spring.

EDR 602 Grade 5-12: Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum 3 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. Course includes 25 hours of field work for a combined 50 hours of fieldwork with EDR 601: Birth-Grade 4:Diagnosis and Diagnostic Teaching Clinical Practicum.

Prerequisite: EDR 601 or EDR 602.

Offered: every fall & spring.

EDR 616 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: occasionally.

EDU 615 Research Methods**3 Credits**

Candidates will develop an understanding of the research process from formulating a research problem through data analysis and interpretation. Candidates will learn how to critically analyze research studies, discuss ethical considerations in conducting research and discuss the importance of scientific research for educational policy and practice. Each candidate will plan a research project consistent with his/her interests and with the course goals.