MAE in LITERACY EDUCATION

Welcome

Understanding the intricacies of basic literacy skills, assessment, and the theories that frame literacy instruction prepares the classroom teacher for her work in developing literate citizens for a world in which literacy is critical. The classroom teacher that has an expert's perspective of the development of her students as readers and writers is able to plan and instruct in a classroom where student learning thrives, unhindered by literacy gaps that, in many cases, can be efficiently and effectively addressed by that skillful practitioner of reading and writing instruction. The teacher with a full understanding of decoding and comprehension can invite her students into texts in all content areas, guiding their reading of complex texts that engage and challenge them. With a full understanding of encoding (writing), she can lead her students to develop and appreciate the power of the pen.

The WKU Master of Arts in Literacy is a **30-hour online program** of study that offers understandings and abilities in literacy and the instruction of literacy. The WKU literacy graduate faculty is committed to mentoring students onto and along the path that includes theory, practice, and research in reading and writing. Graduate students that enter with a love of reading and writing are guided to develop an even deeper appreciation for the complexities and benefits of being literate, departing with urgency for scaffolding the literacy development of others. While the graduate degree in literacy is most often of benefit in the school classroom, there is no limit to the influence of those with knowledge of how a person develops as a reader and writer.

The Literacy Program is committed to providing lifelong learning for both faculty and students by promoting courses of study that involve students and faculty in academic peer relationships that stress shared responsibility for learning and for the discovery of new knowledge. The Literacy faculty is committed to research, scholarship, and creative work that results in superior teaching and service to the community and to the professions.

Admission Requirements

Traditional Admission

Step 1: Apply for graduate school @ http://www.wku.edu/graduate/. Click the red button in the center of the page saying "Apply Now." *Note: You will have to pay an application fee at the time you submit your application.*

Step 2: Submit a copy of your Teacher Certification. All students applying to the M.A.E. in Literacy Education must hold a teacher certificate or have a statement of eligibility.

Step 3: Take the GRE and have your scores submitted to WKU (the following scores are applicable to scores obtained after 2013):

    a. Verbal & Quantitative Scores of 139 or above
    b. Writing Score of 3.5 or above
    c. GAP score of 578 or above. GAP = (GRE-V + GRE-Q) + (Undergrad GAP*100)

Note: You can apply and be admitted to the program and complete up to 9 hours before your GRE is complete. Therefore, you could start LTCY 519 during the summer at the same time you are preparing for and taking your GRE.

Alternate Route to Admission

Applicants with teaching degrees from an accredited university and a 3.5 undergraduate GPA or higher have the option to submit a portfolio in lieu of GRE scores.

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Step 2: Submit a copy of your Teacher Certification. All students applying to the M.A.E. in Literacy Education must hold a teacher certificate or have a statement of eligibility.

Step 3: Submit a professional portfolio to Dr. Nancy Hulan nancy.hulan@wku.edu , Literacy program representative, "consisting of the record of vocational attainment and recognition; a statement of goals indicating commitment to pursue graduate education; letters of support from instructors, co-workers, or work supervisors; scholarly papers and/or projects; and any other supportive materials" (2010-2011 Graduate Catalog, p. 14).

This portfolio demonstrates your professional knowledge towards the profession and exemplifies why you would be an excellent candidate for the M.A.E. in Literacy program. Portfolio submissions must include:

    a. An introductory letter explaining your interest in and intention to pursue the MAE in Literacy Education (If there are questionable areas in your transcript or work samples, explain them here)

    b. At least two letters of recommendation from professors, cooperating teachers with whom you have worked, or others who can accurately share information about your teaching, course work, or character.

    c. Two-three work samples demonstrating your experience in education, which can include any of the following:

        i. Your critical performance piece from LTCY 420/LTCY 421 or

        ii. Copies of Lesson Plans (specific to Reading/Writing/Language Arts) with post-teaching assessment pieces and reflections.

        iii. Leadership project materials from your Student Teaching Experiences.

Degree Requirements and Schedule of Offerings

The MAE in Literacy Education is a 30 hour program, with a thesis and non-thesis option available. There are five main components that make up the requirements for the program, which are outlined in detail below. They include:

- Professional Education Component (18 credit hours)
- Specialization Component (3 credit hours)
- Restricted Electives (3 credit hours)
- *Thesis or non-thesis option (6 credit hours).

*Students in the MAE in Literacy Education Program select either a Thesis or Non-Thesis (Comprehensive Literacy Project) as a capstone experience in their program of study. The Thesis presentation and defense and the Comprehensive Literacy Project (CLP) presentation and subsequent oral discussion/questioning serve to replace traditional Comprehensive Exams (Comps).

This degree is offered completely online. Class offerings are scheduled by semester, as outlined below.

Professional Education Component

- LTCY 519   Foundations of Reading Instruction
- LTCY 520   Clinical Diagnosis of Reading Variability
- LTCY 521   Reading Intervention
- LTCY 524   Content Area Literacy
- LTCY 527   Literacy Learning & Cultural Differences
- LTCY 528   Literacy Research Methods & Evaluation

Specialization Component

Choose one of the following (3 hours)
- LTCY 523   Diagnostic Reading Procedures for Classroom Teachers
- LTCY 624   Seminar in Literacy Issues and Trends (KRP)
- LTCY 695   Internship in Literacy Supervision

Restricted Electives

Choose one of the following (3 hours)
- PSY 510   Advanced Education Psychology
- PSY 511   Psychology of Learning
- PSY 519   Psychological Perspectives on Classroom Behavior
- PSY 540   Behavioral Problems of Childhood and Adolescence
- ELED 503   Organization of Elementary School Curriculum
- MGE 571   Middle School Curriculum
- SPED 516   The Child with Exceptionalities: Perspectives & Issues
- SEC 580   Curriculum
- ENG 597   Special Topics in English/Writing Project
- LME 518   Advanced Children's Literature
- LME 527   Literature for Young Adults
- SPED 523   Curriculum/Methods in Early Childhood Special Education
- IECE 591   Seminar in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education
- PSY 432G   Psychology of the Gifted and Creative
- GTE 537   Curriculum, Strategies, and Materials for Gifted Students
- ENG 408G   Sociolinguistics and Psycholinguistics

Thesis Option
- LTCY 599   Thesis

Non-thesis Option
- LTCY 522   Investigations in Reading
- LTCY 624   Seminar in Literacy Issues

Notes:

1. Total degree program hours are 30.

2. Candidates may select the thesis or non-thesis option.

3. In Kentucky, a 30-hour first master's program results in Rank II. A 30 hour planned program above the master's (second master's or non-degree) results in Rank I.

4. The Reading P-12 Endorsement requires a qualifying score on the PRAXIS II for Teaching Reading (#5204).

Schedule of Offerings

Professional Education Component	Specialization Component	Restricted Electives	Thesis Option	OR	Non-Thesis Option
18 Credit Hours Required	3 Credit Hours Required	3 Credit Hours Required	6 Credit Hours Required		6 Credit Hours Required

FALL 1		SPRING 1	
LTCY 519	Foundations of Reading Instruction	LTCY 524	Content Area Literacy
LTCY 527	Literacy Learning & Cultural Differences	LTCY 528	Literacy Research Methods & Evaluation
FALL 2		**SPRING 2**	
LTCY 520	Clinical Diagnosis of Reading Variability	LTCY 624	Seminar in Literary Issues
LTCY 522	Investigations in Reading	LTCY 521	Reading Intervention

SUMMER-Options			
LTCY 523	Advanced Education Psychology or	LTCY 624	Kentucky Reading Project
ENG 597	Writing Project or		Other Restricted Elective as available

OFFERED AS NEEDED	
LTCY 599	Thesis (take twice)

Financial Aid

Eligibility

Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires each student seeking educational loans to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. Once that form is completed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran's benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind that student must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php.

Additional information, specific to graduate students in education can be found at http://www.wku.edu/ste/financial_aid/graduate.php .

Contact Information

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