Reading Education
Master of Science

The Reading Education programs are designed for educators or other professionals interested in the study of individual readers and writers, reading/language arts instruction in the classroom and/or in the reading specialist setting, reading/language arts curriculum and assessment. A unique feature of these programs is that students become engaged in teaching literacy in a supervised practicum experience. With careful planning, licensed teachers can take course work that meets the requirements for obtaining the North Dakota Reading Credential.

Certified teachers with a bachelor’s degree in education may pursue either the Master of Education or the Master of Science. Non-certified individuals who have earned a bachelor’s degree in a field of study other than education may only pursue the Master of Science.

The Master of Science, Reading Education program prepares literacy specialists and classroom teachers in reading/language arts and leadership. Graduates possess specialized knowledge about how to work with readers who have diverse needs. Systematic reflection on instruction and assessment practice that aims to promote reading development for all learners is emphasized. Students in the program will:

- Learn to use the foundations of literacy to create a literate environment for literacy learning by diverse learners in a variety of literacy learning settings.
- Gain knowledge of literacy curriculum that is learner and literature based.
- Learn to use constructivist assessments and instructional practices in a variety of literacy learning settings, e.g., Title I classroom.
- Understand methods to assess, diagnose, and evaluate readers and writers.
- Use systematic study of practice to lead positive changes in literacy teaching and learning.

Admission Requirements

For the M.S., teacher licensure at one of the following levels: early childhood, elementary, middle or secondary education, or a baccalaureate degree in another field of study is required.

The Reading Education program follows the School of Graduate Studies requirements for a cumulative undergraduate minimum grade point average of 2.75 or a junior/senior year minimum grade point average of 3.00. Applicants must satisfy the School of Graduate Studies' English Language Proficiency requirements as listed in the Graduate Academic Information section of the graduate catalog. Transcripts, recommendations, and a personal statement, i.e., a response to three essay prompts, are part of the School of Graduate Studies and Reading Education application procedure. The personal statement essay should be three pages in length and the prompts are:

1. Describe your professional background, especially as it relates to teaching reading, writing and other areas of reading/language arts.
2. What characteristics and strengths do you possess that make you a good candidate for this degree program?
3. Discuss your professional goals.

Refer to the School of Graduate Studies Admissions and the Education Admissions Process sections of the graduate catalog for additional information on degree and application requirements and procedures.

Degree Requirements

Tracks I and II are based on the following components:

Apply online: http://graduateschool.und.edu
Deadlines apply. See our website for more details.
1. Core Requirements for the Reading Education major and literacy education electives: The courses in the major engage students in learning content about diverse readers, writers, and speakers; curriculum, methods of teaching and assessing; literacy theory and foundations; and professional perspective. T&L 583 Reading Clinic, one of the Core Requirements, involves students in a practicum experience in which they work with readers to apply their core knowledge about teaching literacy to diverse readers.

2. Research: This component of the program supports development of skills for scholarly inquiry and systematic study of one’s own practice; learning about scholarly inquiry is integrated throughout the coursework.


The Core Requirements for the Reading Education major, for both degree programs are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;L 524</td>
<td>Reading in the Content Areas</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;L 525</td>
<td>Writing in the Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;L 530</td>
<td>Foundations of Reading Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;L 534</td>
<td>Basic Reading Diagnosis and Remediation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T&amp;L 583</td>
<td>Reading Clinic (co-requisite with T&amp;L 534)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All students also complete various requirements specified for their degree program, i.e., for either the M.Ed. or the M.S. Please see below.

The M.S. Reading Education degree program is available in two tracks. Track I, either thesis or non-thesis, is open to licensed persons who wish to follow a research-oriented program of study. Track I requires a minimum of five credits of scholarly tools coursework and allows a maximum of two credits of reading. Track II, available only in the non-thesis option, provides opportunity for non-licensed persons to study Reading Education at the graduate level. Track II requires a minimum of six credits of coursework in Foundations of Education. With careful planning, most M.S. Track I students can meet the course requirements of the North Dakota Reading Credential.

Please refer to the academic catalog for further course requirements.

**Faculty and Areas of Expertise**

- **Shelby Barrentine, Ph.D.**, Graduate Program Director, Practices, principles and theories of literacy instruction and assessment
- **Pamela Beck, Ed.D.**, Assistant Professor, Literacy Education
- **Barbara Combs, Ph.D.**, Associate Dean for Teacher Education
- **Anne Walker, Ph.D.**, TESOL, social foundations of literacy, content area literacy, content area literacy

**Contact Information**

Dr. Shelby Barrentine, Graduate Program Director  
P: (701) 777-3162  
Department of Teaching and Learning – Reading Education  
F: (701) 777-3246  
University of North Dakota  
E: shelby.barrentine@email.und.edu  
231 Centennial Drive, Stop 7189  
Grand Forks, ND 58202-7189

http://education.und.edu/teaching-and-learning/grad-reading.cfm

* Reading Education also offers a Master of Education degree.*