

DEPARTMENT OF LITERACY AND LEARNING

Web Site: <https://twu.edu/literacy-and-learning/>

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Graduate Degrees Offered

The principal objectives of the department are to provide professional development for teachers and educators and opportunities for advanced graduate training in literacy and early childhood education. At the doctoral level, the department provides specialized study in both literacy from early childhood through adult years and early childhood education, each with an emphasis on the study and practice of research in selected areas. A major goal of all graduate programs is to develop leadership potential and skills for graduates of these programs and to encourage effective teaching practices in all areas of public schools and at the college level. At all levels of study, the interrelationships of theory and practice are valued, as students are led to develop theory and new knowledge leading to the integration of research and practice. The department also offers services to teachers, schools, parents, and the community in the form of courses, programs of study, and expert consultation on teaching and learning.

Master's courses taken at the post-baccalaureate level to satisfy the professional development requirements leading to initial teacher certification (excluding student teaching) may be applied to a master's degree in the department, subject to department approval. Professional-level certification and endorsements may be coordinated with most master's and doctoral degree plans in the department, depending on advisory committee approval.

Master's Degree Programs

- M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/literacy-learning/early-childhood-education-med/>) - The Master of Education degree in Early Childhood Education provides professional development for early childhood teachers and prepares students for advanced careers in various educational settings. The program is offered up to 100% online.
- M.Ed. in Literacy Education (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/literacy-learning/reading-education-med/>) - The Master of Education degree in Literacy Education prepares teachers to be literacy leaders in their schools. The degree may lead to certification as an All-level Reading Specialist. Students seeking the M.Ed. degree complete a Digital Professional Portfolio. The M.Ed. is a hybrid program.
- M.A. in Reading Education (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/literacy-learning/reading-education-ma/>) - The Master of Arts degree in Reading Education prepares teachers to be literacy leaders in their schools. This degree may lead to certification as an All-level Reading Specialist. The M.A. is identical to the M.Ed. except it provides a thesis option that can prepare students for further work in a doctoral program.
- M.A. in Multilingual and Multicultural Studies (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/literacy-learning/>

[multilingual-multicultural-studies-ma/](https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/literacy-learning/multilingual-multicultural-studies-ma/)) - The Master of Arts degree in Multilingual and Multicultural Studies prepares educators and other professionals to work with multilingual populations across a variety of settings.

Doctoral Degree Programs

- Ph.D. in Child Development and Early Education (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/human-development-family-studies-counseling/child-development-early-education-phd/>) - The doctoral program in Child Development and Early Education prepares students for advanced career options in child care administration, child and family advocacy, public policy, research, and higher education. Offered together with the Department of Human Development, Family Studies, and Counseling.
- Ph.D. in Literacy, Language, and Culture (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/professional-education/literacy-learning/literacy-language-culture-phd/>) - The doctoral program in Literacy, Language, and Culture prepares educators and researchers for specialized work in literacy in diverse social contexts at all levels of education and outside of schools.

All-Level (K-12) Reading Specialist Certification

Master's degree coursework in Literacy Education can lead to certification as an All-Level (K-12) Reading Specialist. This certificate requires previous teaching certification and, at the time of completion, a master's degree and two years of classroom teaching experience. In addition, students must successfully complete the appropriate certification exam and related TEA requirements. This certification is awarded by the State Board for Educator Certification.