

Master of Education in Literacy Education

The Master of Education in Literacy Education at Penn State Harrisburg is designed to provide full-time and part-time graduate candidates with a focused program of study in the field of literacy education. This advanced degree provides candidates with a comprehensive approach to literacy research, instructional practice, assessment, and leadership to meet the varied and diverse needs of PK-12 learners. Grounded in sociocultural and critical literacy approaches, the program affords literacy professionals: (1) specialized, in-depth knowledge about the teaching of literacy; (2) diagnostic and clinical skills necessary to support and plan instruction for a diverse range of students; (3) the ability to interpret, evaluate, and use literacy research to inform practices; (4) opportunities to use both digital and traditional texts to teach literacy across the curriculum; (5) knowledge about the role of social context in supporting PK-12 learners' acquisition of language and literacy; and (6) the literacy leadership skills necessary to support and inform professional practice in PK-12 settings. Candidates also participate in a final capstone course that provides the opportunity to work closely with PK-12 learners in a faculty-supervised, clinical setting.

This program is recognized by the [Pennsylvania Department of Education \(PDE\)](#) and the [International Reading Association \(IRA\)](#).

Degree Conferred: M.Ed.



Contact

Administrative Support Assistant

Deborah Klugh

dlk33@psu.edu

+1 717 948 6213

Professor-in-Charge

Mary Napoli, Ph.D.

mxn130@psu.edu

+1 717 948 6725

Content reviewed and approved Thu Jun 25, 2020 14:47:27 pm



PennState
Harrisburg

777 West Harrisburg Pike
Middletown, PA 17057
Phone: 717-948-6205
Fax: 717-948-6209
harrisburg.psu.edu

Program Website: <https://harrisburg.psu.edu/lit-ed>



PennState
Harrisburg

**School of Behavioral
Sciences and Education**

**Master of Education in
Literacy Education**

Curriculum

Degree Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements stated in the [degree requirements](#) section of the Graduate Bulletin.

The Master of Education degree in Literacy Education consists of 33 credits that prepare students for the Pennsylvania Reading Specialist Certification (K-12). The degree requirements for the Master of Education in Literacy Education include 21 credits in foundational, pedagogical, and advanced theoretical work in reading, writing and educational research design, two courses that make up the capstone clinical practicum (6 credits), and 6 additional credits of electives for a total of 33 credits. At least 18 credits must be taken at the 500 or 800 level, with at least 6 credits at the 500 level. A minimum grade-point average of 3.00 for work done at the University and acceptable or higher ratings on the professional dispositions are required for graduation.

Visit for complete details.

Testimonials

Through my time in the Literacy Education program at Penn State Harrisburg, I was able to engage in an amazing experience of rigorous studies, research-based practices, and opportunities to develop as a literacy leader. The faculty are genuinely interested in helping the program participants develop as strong teachers and literacy professionals. During the course of studies, I was exposed to assessment strategies, methods of instruction focusing on reaching all learners and ways to engage as a researcher. My experiences in this program have allowed me to grow as a teacher while developing skills to be a lifelong literacy learner and leader.



T. Alicia Toussaint-White

Courses Overview

The master of education in literacy education at Penn State Harrisburg prepares full-time and part-time graduate candidates with a comprehensive approach to literacy education. The 33-credit program infuses current research and policy to prepare reading/literacy specialists to meet the varied and diverse literacy needs of K-12 learners.

In Theoretical Foundations of Literacy (EDUC 561), candidates examine the foundations that affect the fields of literacy and reading education, become reacquainted with mainstream theories, and are introduced to those of critical theorists who challenge traditional perspectives that have often marginalized race, class, and linguistic variety in learning and in literacy development. In Literacy Leadership (EDUC 865), candidates explore factors that directly impact literacy in 21st century schools, namely diverse communities, access to voice in school decision making, adults' collaborative practices, academic standards, intervention, multimodality, and multiliteracy.

Graduate candidates participate in a full academic year clinical model in Literacy Methods (EDUC 863) and Literacy Clinic (EDUC 864). Graduate candidates learn how to write a case study by conducting assessments and planning evidence-based instruction for K-12 learners with literacy difficulties. Candidates use digital and traditional texts to teach literacy across the curriculum. Candidates also participate in a final capstone course that provides the opportunity to work closely with K-12 learners in a faculty-supervised, clinical setting.

Throughout the program, candidates work closely with nationally known faculty members and cultivate strong peer support networks. The Literacy Education program is aligned with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the International Literacy Association (ILA) Standards.

Following successful completion of the program, candidates are eligible to take the Praxis examination for certification as a K-12 Reading Specialist. The Reading Specialist Praxis Exam consists of questions about assessment, literacy development, leadership skills, and case study analysis. Our program completers continue to have a high success rate with 100% of candidates passing the exam. A Literacy Leadership postbaccalaureate certificate and fellowship opportunities in the [Capital Area Writing Project](#)/ [National Writing Project](#) are also available.

Program Requirements for Admission

Requirements	More Information
GPA	Candidates must have achieved an overall junior/senior grade point average of 3.00 or higher on a 4.0 scale. For candidates applying for admission who have completed credits beyond the baccalaureate degree, we will evaluate the last (approximately) 60 credits completed.
Supporting Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Two letters of recommendation✓ A brief (200-300 words) personal statement✓ A valid Pennsylvania Teaching Certificate *✓ Test scores from one of the following<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ GRE, Miller Analogies Test, or Educator Certification Exams, such as PECT or Praxis

* Pennsylvania Teaching Certificate must be with an evidence of a course in the methods of teaching reading, such as EDUC 320 (Methods in Teaching Beginning Readers) or 321 (Methods in Teaching Intermediate and Advanced Readers) with a grade of C or better.

Application Deadline

This program has rolling admission, that is, no specific deadline. Note that it may take 4-6 weeks to receive transcripts and process an application.