

# READING SPECIALIST MS

The MS in Reading Specialist at Saint Joseph's University is approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and aligned with PDE requirements for reading specialists, including competencies and standards in structured literacy. This masters degree offers initial Level 1 certification to candidates who do not have educational backgrounds and do not have Instructional 1 Teaching Certification, as well as classroom teachers who already hold initial Level 1 certification. The program is fully online and tailored for students interested in obtaining a master's degree as well as those who wish to get certified as Reading Specialists without a master's degree.

## Learning Goals and Outcomes

**Goal 1:** Candidates will demonstrate knowledge of major theoretical, conceptual, historical, and evidence-based foundations of literacy and language and the ways in which they interrelate.

**Goal 2:** Candidates will design literacy curricula to meet the needs of a variety of literacy learners by drawing from a range of literacy teaching paradigms, including structured literacy, culturally sustaining literacy, critical literacy, multimodal and digital literacies, and thoughtful literacy.

**Goal 3:** Candidates will recognize and appreciate the inherent literate capacities of all students.

**Goal 4:** Candidates will design, implement, and evaluate small-group and individual evidence-based literacy instruction for learners, including those who experience difficulties with literacy.

**Goal 5:** Candidates will understand, select, and use valid, reliable, fair, and appropriate cognitive and noncognitive assessment tools to inform instruction, evaluate interventions, and guide teachers in their understanding and use of assessment results.

**Goal 6:** Candidates will strive to enact and advance equitable literacy teaching practices and policies at the classroom, school, district, and community levels.

**Goal 7:** Candidates will demonstrate the ability to be reflective literacy professionals who apply their knowledge of adult learning to work collaboratively with colleagues and advocate on behalf of teachers, students, families, and communities.

**Goal 8:** Candidates will complete supervised practicum experiences that include intervention.

## Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
EDU 646	Language and Culture w/ Field	3
EDU 671	Writing in the Curriculum	3

For candidates who have not previously taken introductory literacy pedagogy courses, EDU 632 or EDU 640 must be completed before taking any 700-level course.

EDU 700	Psychology of Literacy	3
EDU 701	Assess & Instr in Liter K-3	3
EDU 702	Assess & Instr in Liter 4-12	3
EDU 703	Crit Exp of Literacy Research	3
EDU 704	Plng & Org a Literacy Program	3
<b>Practicum</b>		<b>6</b>

### EDU 705 Literacy Practicum

EDU 705 is for students holding Instructional 1 certificate. Students taking EDU 705 do not take EDU 769.

### EDU 769 Advanced Fieldwork in Literacy

EDU 769 is the literacy practicum for candidates obtaining Level 1 Certification. They do not take EDU 705.

Elective	3
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>30</b>

Per PDE Chapter 49 the following courses are required if candidates have not previously completed them:

Code	Title	Hours
EDU 632	Literacy/Literature I w/ Field	3
or EDU 640	Literacy/Literature II w/Field	
SPE 600	Found & Current Issues w/Field	3
SPE 613	Incl. Class Practices w/Field	3