

READING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION (POST GRADUATE)

This 24 semester credit hour, embedded in the online M.Ed. in Reading/Language Arts degree, is designed for teacher practitioners who are interested in obtaining a Texas Reading Specialist Certification to strengthen their understanding of literacy for application in their classroom or other school settings. The Texas Reading Specialist Certification is designed for an applicant who desires to work as an all-level Reading Specialist in Texas. The stand alone certification is for applicants who currently hold a Masters or higher graduate degree.

Candidates for the Texas Reading Specialist Certification must have a valid elementary or secondary Texas teaching certification, along with two years of successful teaching experience before taking the Reading Specialist exam (Two years can be concurrent with the program). One hundred and sixty hours of practicum/field experience with diverse learner populations are embedded in the program. Field experience hours must be completed at a Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved location.

Students must successfully complete coursework within the M.Ed. in Reading/Language Arts program and 160 hours of documented field experience to be recommended to take the exam. Field hours are embedded in the M.Ed in Reading/Language Arts course work.

TEA requires a graduate degree in a literacy related field to be recommended for the Texas Reading Specialists certification; therefore, this stand alone certification is only offered for those holding a graduate degree. All others should seek the M.Ed. in Reading/Language Arts (<http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2020-2021/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/education/school-of-teaching-and-learning/reading-language-arts-med/>) program.

Contact the program coordinator if the applicant already holds a graduate degree in a literacy related field.

If an applicant does not hold a graduate degree, lives out-of-state, teaches at a private school, or is not able to complete the field experience hours in a TEA location, the M.Ed. in Reading/Language Arts is nationally accredited by the International Literacy Association to develop all-level Reading Specialist dispositions. This route will strengthen their understanding of literacy for application in their classroom or other school settings. Such an applicant would seek the M.Ed. in Reading/Language Arts (<http://catalog.shsu.edu/archives/2020-2021/graduate-and-professional/college-departments/education/school-of-teaching-and-learning/reading-language-arts-med/>) route.

Admission Deadlines

Summer start: May 1st application due date

Fall start: July 15th application due date

Admission Requirements

To be regularly admitted to the Graduate School, applicants must submit the following:

1. Hold a graduate degree
2. Graduate Application (<http://www.shsu.edu/admissions/apply-texas.html>)
3. Application fee (<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/graduate-studies/application-fee.html>)
4. Pay the \$35 Texas Education Accountability System for Educator Preparation Programs Fee (<http://tinyurl.com/SHSU-EPP-Tech-Fee/>) (paid to the TEA as required by TAC 229.9.7 ([http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.TacPage/?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=229&rl=9%E2%88%9A](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.TacPage/?sl=R&app=9&p_dir=&p_rloc=&p_tloc=&p_ploc=&pg=1&p_tac=&ti=19&pt=7&ch=229&rl=9%E2%88%9A)))) if seeking Texas Reading Specialist certification
5. Official transcript from all colleges attended, both undergraduate and graduate, with a minimum of a 2.8 GPA reflected. If GPA is less the 2.8 overall or in the last 60 SCH, official GRE scores must be submitted. Minimum scores required are listed in the table below.
6. A copy of applicant's Texas teaching certificate
7. A teacher service record with at least one year of creditable teaching experience
8. Acceptable Professional Goals writing sample. This writing sample should be two pages double-spaced, 12 pt font with proper essay format, and address the following questions:
 - a. What have your experiences with reading/language arts been thus far which have led you to pursue a graduate degree?
 - b. What is your understanding of our Reading/Language Arts master's program?
 - c. Upon completion of the program, what are your goals for your earned Master of Education in Reading/Language Arts degree (If you are seeking Texas Reading Specialist Certification, include those goals as well.)
9. Video Interview. Record a 3-4 minute video of yourself that answers the following questions. Your video should be in one of the supported formats submitted with your application.
 - a. How many years have you been a classroom teacher?
 - b. What experience do you have teaching reading and/or language arts?
 - c. What does it mean to you to be understanding, respectful, and inclusive of diverse populations?

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- d. Give an example of how you would use technology to create authentic learning?
- e. What are your expectations of this certification program, and what do you intend to do once you have earned this certification?

For information regarding the recommendations, interview, and writing sample, please contact the Academic Advisor for Graduate Programs at (936) 294-4757.

Applicants with completed files are reviewed for regular admission by graduate faculty in each program area and are selected by faculty based on information in the completed file.

GRE revised General Test Score Bands to be used for Admission to an Educator Preparation Program under the 10% Exception Rule in 19 TAC §227.10(a)(3)(D).

Self-reported Undergraduate GPA	GRE Verbal Reasoning ¹	GRE Quantitative Reasoning ¹	GRE Analytical Writing ²
B-(2.7 GPA)	143-157	140-155	3.0-4-5

Under these circumstances, the GRE may not be waived.

The stand alone Reading Specialist Certification (Post Graduate) requires the completion of 24 credit hours. It is designed for those holding a graduate degree and a valid Elementary or Secondary teaching certificate. The candidate must have two years successful teaching experience and successfully complete a departmentally approved reading capstone project before taking the Reading Specialist Exam. Candidates must be enrolled in coursework during the semester they submit their reading capstone project. The stand alone certification program originates in the Reading/Language Arts Master of Education in the School of Teaching and Learning.

The stand alone Reading Specialist Certification (Post Graduate) Requirements:

1. Graduate degree or higher (if not then refer to MED in Reading/Language Arts)
2. 24 Semester Credit Hours
3. 160 hours of field experience (embedded into the program) in a Texas Education Agency (TEA) approved location
4. Valid Texas Teaching certificate and official educator service record (submitted with application)
5. At least 2 years teaching experience at completion of program

Code	Title	Hours
Reading Specialist Certification		
Specified Courses		
READ 5307	Prac-Lit Assmt/Instr Stratgy I (with Elementary Populations 40 hours of field experience in a TEA school)) ¹	3
READ 5312	Second Language Literacy (10 hours of field experience in a TEA school)	3
READ 5330	Lit & Instr Mat In Rdg Progs	3
READ 5335	Cognition & Emergent Literacy	3
READ 5340	Literacy Practicum II- Sec Pop (has 40 hours of field experience) ²	3
READ 6088	Special Topics in Reading (Multisensory Language Learning with 10 hours field experience)	3
READ 6310	Admin/Suprvsn Of Literacy Prog (10 hours of field experience in a TEA school) ²	3
READ 6320	Research and Literacy Leadership (50 hours of field experience in a TEA school) ³	3
Total Hours		24

¹ Prerequisites: READ 5335, READ 5330

² Prerequisite: READ 5307