

# ELEMENTARY EDUCATION/EARLY CHILDHOOD

## READING SPECIALIST

MASTER OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



### DELIVERY METHOD

100% online

### START TERMS

Fall, Winter, Spring or Summer

### COMPLETION TIME

1-1/2 years average, but varies per student

### NUMBER OF CREDITS

Varies by program choice (12-30 credits)



**SlipperyRock**  
University

A member of Pennsylvania's State System  
of Higher Education

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

[www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate)

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Master of Education in Elementary Education Reading is designed to promote the development of reading professionals who are prepared to fill a variety of roles in PK-12 school settings. These roles include classroom reading teacher, diagnostic remedial specialist, developmental study skills specialist, consultant, literacy coach, or resource specialist. All candidates completing this program are eligible to receive Pennsylvania Reading Specialist Certification after achieving a passing score on the Praxis II test in Reading. This certification is required for all Title I reading teachers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Have you considered becoming a reading specialist, Title I teacher, or a literacy coach? Teachers can add the PK-12 reading specialist certification and an endorsement in instructional coaching/literacy emphasis to their current teaching certificate, while earning an M.Ed. in Reading.

SRU's graduate reading programs are perfect for certified teachers who want to:

- Enhance their knowledge of and expertise in teaching literacy
- Expand employment opportunities to include reading specialist, literacy coach, and PK-12 reading
- Meet requirements for Level II Certification, Act 48, or an M.Ed.

SRU's M.Ed. Reading programs offer working professionals:

- High-quality courses that provide flexibility for your busy schedule
- Experienced faculty with doctoral degrees who are experts in their fields
- Small class sizes and personal interaction with faculty

### CURRICULUM GUIDE - M.ED. WITH PK-12 READING SPECIALIST

#### Professional Core

ELEC 608	Historical, Psychological & Linguistic Foundations of Literacy	3
ELEC 610	The Reading Program in the Elementary School	3
ELEC 612	The Reading Program in the Middle/Secondary School	3
ELEC 614	Foundations of Instructional Coaching	3
ELEC 622	Literacy Assessment Analysis & Instructional Decision Making	3
ELEC 625	Practicum: Assessment and Instruction for the Reading Specialist	3
ELEC 629	Practicum: Organization and Administration of School Reading	3

#### Educational Foundations - Select one of the following:

ELEC 615	Teacher Leadership & School Change for Instructional Coaches	3
SEFE 604	Philosophical Foundations of Education	
SEFE 606	Social Foundations of Education	
SEFE 609	History of Western Education	
SEFE 680	Crucial Issues in Education	

#### Research and Statistics Courses

ELEC 627	Current Issues in Reading Research (Required)	3
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#### Select one of the following:

ELEC 697	Statistical Interpretation & Analysis in Reading Research and Assessments	3
SEFE 602	Univariate Statistical Methods	
SEFE 696	Elements of Qualitative Educational Research	

**Total Hours** 30

#### IMPORTANT CURRICULUM GUIDE NOTES

This Curriculum Guide is provided to help SRU students and prospective students better understand their intended major curriculum. Enrolled SRU students should note that the My Rock Audit may place already-earned and/or in progress courses in different, yet valid, curriculum categories. Enrolled SRU students should use the My Rock Audit Report and materials and information provided by their faculty advisers to ensure accurate progress towards degree completion. The information on this guide is current as of the date listed. Students are responsible for curriculum requirements at the time of enrollment at the University.

PASSHE - Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education Institutions  
Major Code: 9190

#### SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCE:

The following courses can be taken in any order to begin the program:  
ELEC 608      ELEC 610      ELEC 612      ELEC 614      ELEC 615

#### TUITION

Information on current tuition can be found on the Graduate Admissions website at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate). Financial Aid brochures are available through the Financial Aid Office [www.sru.edu/FinAid](http://www.sru.edu/FinAid) or in the Office of Graduate Admissions.

**CURRICULUM GUIDE - READING SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION**

**Required Courses**

ELEC 608	Historical, Psychological & Linguistic Foundations of Literacy	3
ELEC 610	The Reading Program in the Elementary School	3
ELEC 612	The Reading Program in the Middle/Secondary School	3
ELEC 614	Foundations of Instructional Coaching	3
ELEC 622	Literacy Assessment Analysis & Instructional Decision Making	3
ELEC 625	Practicum: Assessment and Instruction for the Reading Specialist	3
ELEC 629	Practicum: Organization and Administration of School Reading Programs	3

**Total Hours** 21

**Program Code: 919C**

Candidates seeking only the certification as a Pennsylvania Reading Specialist (not a Master’s Degree and certification) must complete 21 credits of graduate courses in reading (the CORE courses listed above) and pass the Praxis II Specialty Test in reading. Should a candidate choose to continue his/her studies toward the attainment of a graduate degree, all of the core courses will count toward the Master of Education degree in Reading

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE CERTIFICATION (PK-12 Reading Specialist, M.Ed. & PK-12 Reading Specialist Certification & Instructional Coaching Endorsement: Literacy Emphasis, M.Ed.)**

All candidates completing this program are eligible to receive Pennsylvania certification after completing a practicum and achieving a passing or qualifying score on Pennsylvania Department of Education required exam(s). If you are interested in teaching in another state, please contact the Department of Education in that state.

**PROGRAM AWARDS**



**TESTING AND PDE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

(to view the most updated information, click on the QR code provided)



**CURRICULUM GUIDE - INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING: LITERACY ENDORSEMENT**

This endorsement is a 12-credit program designed to support already certified reading specialists as they continue to develop the skills needed to be highly effective literacy coaches in PK-12 schools. In order to be recommended for the Instructional Coaching—Literacy Emphasis Endorsement, the candidate must complete all four of the following courses and have a minimum of three years of teaching experience at the time of the application for the endorsement from PDE. Candidates without the required teaching experience may complete the coursework and apply for the endorsement when they have the required three years of teaching experience. All courses for the Instructional Coaching/Literacy Endorsement are available in a convenient, online format.

**Required Courses**

ELEC 614	Foundations of Instructional Coaching	3
ELEC 615	Teacher Leadership & School Change for Instructional Coaches	3
ELEC 622	Literacy Assessment Analysis & Instructional Decision Making	3
ELEC 643	Advanced Literacy Coaching Practicum	3

**Total Hours** 12

**Program Code: 918E**

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants to the graduate reading programs must already hold a valid teaching certificate. In order to be considered for admission to any of the reading programs, the following materials must be submitted with the online graduate application and a non-refundable application fee:

- Official undergraduate degree transcript with an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher and any graduate transcripts.
- A resume indicating the candidate’s professional education employment history and current status (student-teaching, tenured, non-tenured; full-time, part-time, substitute) with a school district.
- A copy of the applicant’s current teaching certification(s) or a letter from the certifying university indicating that requirements for a teaching certification have been met and that the certification application is currently being processed. This can be from any state. **NOTE:** The reading specialist certification can only be added to an instructional certificate, not an educational specialist certificate.
- Two electronic recommendation forms: two from a professional or one from a professional and one from a faculty member

Applicants who do not meet all of the listed criteria may be offered conditional admission upon recommendation of the graduate coordinator and approval by the director of Graduate Admissions.

**CLEARANCES**

Clearances are due no later than one (1) week prior to deadline for course registration for each program’s practicum/field experience-----no student will be permitted to register for their program’s practicum and take part in practicum/field experiences without clearances on file at SRU. Please refer to the graduate website at [www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate) and select “Requirements by Program” to learn more.

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ACADEMICS AND COURSE SCHEDULING:**

Dr. Christine Walsh  
Graduate Coordinator  
201 McKay Education Building  
724.738.4889  
christine.walsh@sru.edu

**FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ADMISSIONS:**

Office of Graduate Admissions  
104 North Hall, Welcome Center  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
[www.sru.edu/graduate](http://www.sru.edu/graduate)  
724.738.2051 or 877.SRU.GRAD  
graduate.admissions@sru.edu

The educational policies and procedures are continually being reviewed and changed in keeping with the mission of the university. Consequently, this document cannot be considered binding and is intended to be used as only an informational guide. Students are responsible for being informed of official policies and regulations for meeting all appropriate requirements.