



Master of Education in Reading

VED



READING



Graduate Admissions
P.O. Box 750
Kutztown, PA 19550



MEMO

Thank you for your interest in

THE GRADUATE READING PROGRAM AT KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY!

This program is designed to lead to a Master of Education degree in Reading and Reading Specialist certification (Reading Specialist certification can also be earned independently by students who already hold a Master of Education degree). The Graduate Reading Program at Kutztown University is a nationally recognized program approved by the International Reading Association, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, and the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Best wishes in your educational pursuits.

Mary Laub, Ed.D., Coordinator, Graduate Reading Program

Fast Facts about KU

- ✓ Graduate program began in 1960.
- ✓ Over 6,300 graduate degrees have been awarded.
- ✓ Student-to-teacher ratio is 14 to 1.
- ✓ Average class size is 16.
- ✓ Financial aid options include Stafford Loans, graduate assistantships, private educational loans, and PSECU scholarships. Please call Financial Aid Services (610-683-4077) for more information. Professional credit students are ineligible for federal aid (alternative loan programs are available).
- ✓ Graduate students who receive tuition reimbursement at the completion of a class can obtain a tuition deferment by contacting the Bursar's Office (610-683-4133) prior to the start of the class (\$25 activation fee is required along with payment for any additional course costs).
- ✓ On-campus housing is available in Dixon Hall, Kutztown University's newest residence facility. For more information, please call the Housing and Residential Services Office (610-683-4027). Visit www.kutztown.edu/admin/offcampushousing for information on alternative housing.

More Information

For more information on the Graduate Reading Program at Kutztown University, call Graduate Admissions at **610-683-4200** or visit **www.kutztown.edu**.

Kutztown University
P.O. Box 730
Kutztown, PA 19530

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

- ✓ **Graduate application** (available from the Graduate Studies Office or at www.kutztown.edu/academics/graduate/applyonline.shtml)
- ✓ **\$35 application fee**
- ✓ **Official transcripts from previous colleges or universities** (non KU)
- ✓ **Minimum undergraduate overall GPA of 3.0**
- ✓ **Three graduate evaluation forms** (downloadable at www.kutztown.edu/academics/graduate) [completed by supervisors, principals, and/or professional colleagues; no letters]
- ✓ **Praxis II or evidence of 10 years of classroom instruction with appropriate certification** (GRE waived; also for those individuals who have a graduate degree)
- ✓ **Valid Pennsylvania Instructional I or II certification** (students who hold an out-of-state certificate or an invalid Pennsylvania certificate can be admitted conditionally, but will not be able to complete the program until they hold a valid Pennsylvania Instructional I certificate)

NOTE: Admission requirements may be subject to change.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

- ✓ **Master of Education in Reading/Reading Specialist Certification**
36 Credit Hours, Comprehensive Program Portfolio
- ✓ **Reading Specialist Certification**
(available to students who already hold a Master of Education degree and seek Reading Specialist certification)
24 Credit Hours, Comprehensive Program Portfolio

The goals of the Graduate Reading Program are two-fold. First, it is intended to prepare reading specialists/literacy coaches to plan, implement, and maintain developmental instructional programs. Second, it provides teachers with the ability to recognize and work effectively with learners who have varying degrees of difficulty in reading, or who have other learning problems. The focus of the program is both preventive and corrective and includes a combination of theoretical and practical experiences and activities.

All teachers accepted into the Graduate Reading Program must complete all requirements within six calendar years.



COURSEWORK

I. Required (24 hours)

✓ Foundation-Level Courses (15 hours)

- EDU 502: Seminar in Educational & Psychological Research Pertinent to Reading
- EDU 551: Principles of Reading Instruction
- EDU 552: Teaching Reading in the Content Area
- EDU 555: Reading Disabilities
- EDU 557: Foundations of Reading Comprehension

✓ Application-Level Courses (9 hours)

- EDU 575: Clinical Practicum in Reading: Diagnosis (prerequisites: all foundation-level courses)
- EDU 576: Practicum in Reading Instruction: Corrective & Remedial (prerequisites: EDU 575 and admission to candidacy)
- EDU 577: Leadership for Reading Educators [formerly EDU 559: Topics in Reading] (prerequisites: all foundation-level courses)

Please Note: EDU 575 and EDU 577 may only be taken in the same semester with permission of the Graduate Reading Committee.

II. Electives (12 hours)

Candidates are advised to select electives that will benefit them as reading specialists/literacy coaches. Courses related to diversity, children's literature, writing instruction, curriculum, and technology are highly recommended. Courses in other areas may be taken in consultation with advisors.

III. Comprehensive Program Portfolio

As a summative evaluation, a Comprehensive Program Portfolio is required. The portfolio will reflect the professional standards of the International Reading Association. Candidates must have completed all reading courses or be enrolled in the final reading course in order to present their comprehensive portfolio. Presentations will be made to Graduate Reading faculty three times during the year: April, July, and November. The comprehensive program portfolio task and scoring guide was authored by Dr. Sandy Chambers and Dr. Mary Laub and reviewed and approved by the Graduate Reading Committee and is recognized by the International Reading Association and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Board of Examiners.



CANDIDACY, GRADUATION & CERTIFICATION

Application for Candidacy

All students in the Graduate Reading Program should make application for candidacy after completion of between 12 and 24 graduate credits with a GPA of 3.0. At least six credits must be from the area of specialization. Candidacy must be obtained at least one semester before degree is granted.

Application for Graduation

Application for graduation must be made in writing to Graduate Admissions by the date published in the master schedule and registration instructions. Please note that graduation (formal ceremony) occurs only in May and December. However, recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for issuance of Reading Specialist certification will be made upon completion of all requirements. Also, for salary purposes, a letter can be sent to a school district indicating completion of program requirements.

Application for Certification

Recommendations to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for issuance of Reading Specialist certification will be made upon completion of all Graduate Reading Program requirements.



CAREER TRACTS

- ✓ Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach
- ✓ Elementary/Secondary Teacher
- ✓ Instructional Support Teacher
- ✓ Intervention Specialist



ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

“This program has changed my life. As a result, I have a fantastic job as a reading specialist in the Parkland School District. I found the professors to be extremely caring and committed. They were readily available to help me with questions and projects outside of class time, in addition to during class time. I felt they took a genuine interest in me. The program also provided me with a very strong foundation to pursue my doctorate in reading/language arts through the Kutztown-Widener partnership. Now, I am very excited to be back as Dr. Walkovic, an adjunct faculty member at Kutztown.”

Cathy Walkovic, Ed.D.
Reading Specialist
Parkland School District

“The Kutztown Graduate Reading Program is astounding. The program provided me with a plethora of information that I was able to carry over into my reading/language arts doctorate, which I obtained through the Kutztown-Widener partnership. It also provided me with a very strong foundation so that I could quickly adapt to the academic challenges that I later encountered, not only through my doctorate, but also through my supervisory certification. The KU professors are knowledgeable, committed, and caring. To this day, they continue to make me feel welcomed and part of the Kutztown family. In recent years, I have been fortunate enough to be presented with the opportunity to come full circle and teach at Kutztown. The program has truly changed my life. Thank you!”

Donna Dawson Ed.D.
Reading & Study Skills Specialist
Wilson School District (West Lawn)

“The Reading Program at Kutztown was not only beneficial to me, but also to my students. We have so many responsibilities in our teaching jobs, and the strategies and skills taught were ones that can be used on any given day in my classroom. Moreover, the support of the staff helped make the experience even better. Even though I’m still a regular education teacher, my students are better readers, writers, and learners as a result of my master’s degree in Reading from Kutztown University.”

Julie Wilchek
Sixth Grade Teacher
Wilson School District (West Lawn)

“The Kutztown Graduate Reading Program offers a combination of theory, research, and practical experience designed to prepare teachers to be reading diagnosticians and instructors. The program provided me with the expertise to be a more effective classroom teacher, and eventually to work as a literacy coach. Now, as supervisor of curriculum and instruction, my background in literacy has been a great benefit. The Kutztown professors and students are part of a professional network that continues to be a wonderful resource to me.”

Johnna L. Weller
Supervisor of Curriculum & Instruction
Spring-Ford Area School District



FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

All faculty hold Reading Specialist certification/reading supervisor/reading endorsement.

Jeanie Burnett, Ph.D.

- ✓ President, Association for Childhood Education International
- ✓ Publications: Wrote column “Books for Children” in *Childhood Education*
- ✓ Editorial Boards: *Journal of Reading Education*, *College Reading*, *Journal of Research in Early Childhood Education*
- ✓ International Reading Association Teachers’ Choices Project
- ✓ Awards: Tri-County Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award (sponsored by the International Reading Association)
- ✓ Presentations: International Reading Association, Association for Childhood Education International, Keystone State Reading Association

Sandy Chambers, Ph.D.

- ✓ Presentations: Association for Teacher Educators; National Reading Conference, National Council of Teachers of English, International Reading Association, Keystone State Reading Association, New York State Reading Association
- ✓ Former Chair/Committee Member: Kutztown University Children’s Literature Conference
- ✓ Committee Member: Kutztown University Strategic Planning Committee
- ✓ Consultant: Upper Perkiomen School District Literacy Advisory Council

Mary Laub, Ed.D.

- ✓ Presentations: International Reading Association, Association for Childhood Education International, Keystone Reading State Reading Association, Middle States Council for Social Studies
- ✓ Editorial Board: *Reading Teacher*
- ✓ Vice President for Keystone State Reading Association
- ✓ Chair for Kutztown University Literacy Conference
- ✓ Awards: Tri-County Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award (sponsored by the International Reading Association), John C. Schellenberg Excellence in Teaching Award nominee, Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers, Who’s Who in American Education

Mary Ann O’Neil, Ed.D.

- ✓ Professional Memberships: International Reading Association, Keystone State Reading Association, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Teachers’ College Record
- ✓ Instructional consultant and president of planning board for church preschool, volunteers as a tutor
- ✓ Presentations: International Reading Association Conference, Keystone State Reading Association, Rotary Club Conference, NCEI Conference, Pennsylvania Middle School Conference
- ✓ Committee Member: Kutztown University Commission on Human Diversity, 2008-2009
- ✓ Publications: Online paper presented at NCEI, *Teacher Education Beyond the Textbook*