

University of Wisconsin – Madison
General Information about the Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist Licenses

Program Coordinator: Professor Dawnene Hassett
Literacy Area, Department of Curriculum & Instruction
ddhassett@wisc.edu / 263-4666

1. At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Reading Teacher License program is designed with working teachers in mind. Classes meet in the evenings, the practicum projects are done in the teachers' own classrooms with their own students (for the most part), and the final master's project is a portfolio of the papers completed in the courses of the program with a written overview. It is not a full-blown thesis. The Master's degree also requires an Oral Exam at the end, which is done in group format with the other people graduating in the same semester.
2. There are two levels of reading licensure in Wisconsin: the Reading Teacher license (the 316) and the Reading Specialist license (the 17). The Wisconsin State Reading Teacher License (316) comes first - you can't get a Reading Specialist license without it. In addition, the 316 license (Reading Teacher) requires a regular teaching license and at least two years of classroom teaching experience before the DPI will grant you a license. Lastly, you can get the Reading Teacher license (316) as a special student, but the Reading Specialist license (17) requires a Master's degree. These are all DPI requirements.
3. The Reading Teacher license without a Master's degree is 21 credits - which can be taken as either a special student or a graduate student.
4. A Master's degree is 30 credits, so many of our students are also working toward a Master's degree because it is just three more classes beyond 316 license requirements, and those three additional classes can be a part of the 17 reading specialist license requirements. Students in the program who are working toward the 316 license as a special student typically already have a Master's degree.
5. The Reading Specialist license is 15 credits and a Master's degree beyond the Reading Teacher license.
6. If a student wants a Master's degree, the first step would be to apply to grad school - which you can do on line from the UW home page www.wisc.edu. In the letter of intent, state an interest in a Reading Teacher License – and it will get to my desk a little faster.
7. If a student doesn't want a Master's degree, then the first step would be to enroll as a special student, which you can also do from the UW homepage www.wisc.edu.
8. If a student is interested in getting a license without a Master's degree, they still need to touch base with me, and I need to put them in my database.
9. If previous coursework closely matches our program requirements, we can accept up to 9 credits from elsewhere with advisor approval.
10. The charts on the next pages represent the course requirements and a general program plan. However, advisors may always change your general program plan as needed.

General Program Plan: Reading Teacher License & Reading Specialist License

WI State 316 License = READING TEACHER LICENSE

316 License Requirements	Your Program Plan
Regular Teaching License + Two Years of Successful Teaching	
C&I 604, Seminar in Literacy, Topic 1 (3 credits, fall)	
C&I 500, Language and Literacy Development (3 credits, fall) ~OR~ C&I 976, WI Reading Research Symposium (3 credits, summer)	
C&I 604, Seminar in Literacy, Topic 2 (3 credits, spring)	
C&I 504, Literacy Assessment and Intervention (3 credits) ~OR~ C&I 976, WI Reading Research Symposium (3 credits, summer)	
C&I 632, Literature & Literacy (3 credits, fall)	
C&I 503, Literacy Across the Curriculum (3 credits, spring)	
C&I 699, Independent Study for Master's Portfolio taken during semester of Master's completion (3 credits) ~OR~ Elective (3 credits)	

316 Reading Teacher License by itself = 21 Credits

- Above courses can be replaced by other similar UW-Madison courses with advisor approval.
- The content of C&I 604 Seminar in Literacy changes depending upon the professor who is teaching and the semester it is taught. This seminar may be taken more than once.
- C&I 976, Wisconsin Reading Research Symposium, changes content every summer depending upon who is speaking at the Symposium each year. Now in its third decade, the WI Reading Research Symposium is hosted by a different UW System campus each year. Attendance at the two-day symposium is required for C&I 976, and at least one symposium class is required for the 316 license.
- The DPI also requires a passing score on the Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test (WFORT). A self-paced and free test review for the WFORT can be found at: <https://eop.education.wisc.edu/eop/professional-learning/courses/wisconsin-foundations-of-reading-test-review>

Master's Degree = 30 credits

- You may take courses from the 17 License Requirements below as a part of your Master's Program
- You may take the courses out of order (for example, you can take 17 license courses before completing the 316 license requirements)
- Up to 9 credits from other Universities can be used toward the Master's degree AND to fulfill course requirements for the 316 or 17 license with advisor approval.
- The Master's Degree also requires: a portfolio of projects completed in your program (can be electronic or on disc) with a hard copy of abstracts of the projects; a hard copy of a thesis paper that highlights your strengths as a literacy educator; and an oral exam/defense.
- Any courses taken after the Master's degree can be taken as a special student.

WI State 17 License = READING SPECIALIST LICENSE

17 License Requirements	Your Program Plan
316 Reading Teacher License + Passing score on the WFORT + Master's Degree	
C&I 805, Guiding and Directing School Reading Programs (3 credits) C&I 840, Fieldwork in School Reading Programs (3 credits) Must be taken together; offered every other fall in odd numbered years	
ELPA class on professional development; working with teachers as learners; school- wide literacy improvement; supervising teachers; etc. (varies by semester; 3 credits)	
Elective (3 credits) ~OR~ C&I 976, WI Reading Research Symposium (3 credits, summer)	

Projected MS date (30 credits):

Institutional endorsement for the WI State Reading Teacher License (316) and Reading Specialist License (17) is met through the program plan described above.

WISCONSIN STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS – READING TEACHER

The Department of Public Instruction of the State of Wisconsin grants two levels of license to qualified individuals: (1) the 316 Reading Teacher license, and (2) the 317 Reading Specialist license. As stipulated in s. PI 34, relating to teacher education program approval and licenses, Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction lists the requirements for the 316 Reading Teacher License as follows:

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's PI 34.33 (6)

Stipulations for the 316 Reading Teacher License:

Any person who has a specific assignment to teach reading shall hold a reading teacher license. A reading teacher license to teach at the early childhood through adolescence level shall be issued to an applicant who has completed an approved program and who has received the institutional endorsement for the reading teacher license and who meets all of the following requirements:

- (a) Eligibility to hold a Wisconsin license to teach or completion of an approved teacher education program.
- (b) Two years of successful regular classroom teaching experience.
- (c) Proficiency in the teaching of reading that includes a practicum in teaching reading in all of the following:
 - 1. Developmental reading for pupils in the early childhood through adolescent level.
[272-500 (with practicum); 272-604 (topic 1)]
 - 2. Assessment and instructional techniques for readers with special needs.
[272-504 (with practicum); 272-604 (topic 2)]
 - 3. Language development.
[272-500 (with practicum); 272-604 (topic 1)]
 - 4. Learning disabilities.
[272-504 (with practicum); 272-604 (topic 2)]
 - 5. Content area reading.
[272-503 (with practicum)]
 - 6. Literature for children or adolescents.
[272-632 (with practicum)]

WISCONSIN STATE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS – READING SPECIALIST

As stipulated in s. PI 34, relating to teacher education program approval and licenses, Wisconsin State Department of Public Instruction lists the requirements for the 17 Reading Specialist License as follows:

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's PI 34.32 (8)

Stipulations for the 17 Reading Specialist License:

A reading specialist license is required for any person who directs early childhood through adolescence reading programs or works with reading teachers, classroom teachers, administrators, and others as a resource teacher in reading. A reading specialist license may be issued to an applicant who has completed an approved program and who has received the institutional endorsement for the reading specialist license, and who has both of the following:

- (a) A reading teacher license under s. PI 34.33 (6).
- (b) A master's degree with a major emphasis in reading and the ability to demonstrate expertise in each of the following:
 - 1. Guiding and directing the kindergarten through grade 12 program.
 - 2. Field experience in kindergarten through grade 12 reading programs.
 - 3. Research related to reading.
 - 4. Supervision of instruction.
 - 5. Content area reading for the reading specialist.