

DEVELOPMENTAL STUDIES LITERACY AND LANGUAGE SPECIALIZATION

Boston University School of Education Graduate Programs



DEGREES AND CERTIFICATE OFFERED:

MASTER OF EDUCATION (ED.M.)

CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED GRADUATE STUDY (CAGS)

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (ED.D.)

The Literacy and Language specialization at Boston University is designed for graduate students interested in research and practice in literacy and language. Programs are offered at three levels: Master of Education, Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study, and Doctor of Education. Upon admission to a program, each candidate meets with an academic advisor to plan a program based on the person's academic and professional backgrounds and career aspirations.

Master of Education

The master's program is designed for licensed professionals who wish to study the theoretical and research knowledge that informs practice and for those who wish to work in literacy efforts in non-public school settings. A program of 36 credits must be completed, the majority from the literacy and language core listed below, and one research course. The remaining courses may be selected from those offered in other departments in the School of Education or other schools and colleges in the University. A final project that affords the candidate an opportunity to apply research and theory to practice completes the requirements.

Courses

Literacy Core

SED BI 535	Literacy Development for Bilingual Students: Instruction and Assessment
SED BI 621	Bilingualism and Biliteracy
SED LR 690	Contexts for Literacy: Oral and Written Discourse

SED LS 725	Discourse Narrative and Literacy
SED LR 790	Seminar in Literacy Assessment: Research/Theory/Practice
SED LW 736	Teaching Writing in Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Schools

Language Core

SED LS 565	Introduction to Language and Linguistics (prerequisite to higher level language courses)
SED LS 566	Language Acquisition
SED LS 658	Second Language Acquisition
SED LS 750	Cognitive Development and Language

Research Requirement

SED RS 600	Perspectives on Inquiry
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Final Project

Projects include curriculum materials, research papers, staff development plans, and video and multimedia presentations.

Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study

The Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) is designed for professionals who hold a master's degree in education or a related field and who wish to increase their knowledge of research, theory, and practice in literacy and language. A program of 30 credits must be completed, the majority from the literacy and language core listed above,

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and one research course. The remaining courses may be selected from those offered in other departments in the School of Education or other schools and colleges in the University. A final project that affords the candidate an opportunity to apply research and theory to practice completes the requirements.

CAGS Literacy and Language Core (listed above)

CAGS Research Requirement

SED RS 600 If this course or its equivalent has been completed, the student will select SED RS652 Qualitative Research Methods or SED RS653 Quantitative Research Methods.

CAGS Final Project

Projects include curriculum materials, research papers, staff development plans, and video and multimedia presentations.

Doctor of Education

The Literacy and Language Specialization in Developmental Studies offers candidates the opportunity to develop specialized knowledge in literacy and language while achieving an understanding of related disciplines. The doctoral degree program includes a wide range of disciplines that are defined by:

- Discipline: literacy, linguistics, psychology
- Population: age or stage
- Setting: college/university, school, clinic, or workplace
- Domain: cognitive, linguistic

A program of 60 credits must be completed, six courses from the core areas, three courses in research, and one of the school-wide doctoral courses. The remaining credits will be earned through independent study, dissertation advisement, and research apprenticeship.

Courses

Literacy Core

SED BI 621	Bilingualism and Bilingualism
SED LR 790	Contexts for Literacy: Oral and Written Discourse
SED LS 726	Discourse Narrative and Literacy
SED LR 780	Processes of Reading
SED LW 781	Processes of Writing
SED LR 790	Seminar in Literacy Assessment: Research/Theory/Practice

Language Core

SED LS 726	Discourse Analysis: Theoretical and Methodological Approaches
SED LS 750	Cognitive Development and Language

Research Requirement

SED RS 750	Foundations of Educational Inquiry
SED RS 750	Advanced Research Seminar

Courses in research methodology that inform the candidate's selected mode of inquiry.

Comprehensive Tasks

Three comprehensive tasks are required: an essay book review, a research or grant proposal, and a curriculum project.

Dissertation

The dissertation is completed with the advice of a first reader and two committee members who guide the student in theoretical, qualitative, or empirical research.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q: What career opportunities will be available after the master's program has been completed?**
- A:** Students may establish professional affiliations with organizations concerned with literacy and language development in adults. Those who hold licensure may bring their expertise to a school setting as a classroom teacher or specialist in literacy and language education. Finally, some students may wish to continue their study and research in a doctoral program.
- Q: Is financial aid available?**
- A:** Each academic year, the School of Education awards approximately \$3.5 million in scholarship money to its full-time graduate students. Merit-based scholarships of \$22,000 are currently available to many full-time students. Students with financial need may also qualify for federal loans and Federal Work-Study. Students who enroll in summer classes pay part-time tuition and may be eligible for loans.

Contact:

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