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**The USF-County Reading Academy: Masters in Reading Cohorts**

The University of South Florida in collaboration with several County School Districts proposes to recruit, select, and support a diverse cohort of 15-20 teacher leaders for the MA in Reading degree each in selected counties. Coursework will be delivered as online/synchronized courses with County Literacy Networking Nights held each semester in a location to be determined in participating Counties.

Building on local and global understanding of the literacy needs of our rapidly changing world, we apply the science of reading in the context of expansive, transdisiplinary literacy instruction, and we engage with communities to support literacy access and justice for all.

To meet State of Florida Rule: 6A-4.0163, we will offer different options for the County Reading Academy Cohorts (Fast Track or Part time) and provide documentation of Reading competencies in explicit, systematic, and multi-sensory reading instruction.

**Program Delivery:**

* **Online Delivery:** Courses are offered online with synchronous/live evening sessions to build community and professional networks.
* Instruction delivered by **award-winning** **Literacy Faculty** who have deep knowledge of literacy research and practice.
* **Supervised Reading Practicum** provides documentation of Reading Competency 5 (Practicum) in the teacher’s own County classroom.
  + **8-Week Courses** Designed for Professional Educators who want to Improve their Practice and Increase their knowledge.
  + **Accelerated Timeline:** Complete the Fast-Track Masters in 3 semesters or Part-Time in 2 years. All students will have completed the Reading Endorsement in the first year.
  + **Options for 3 Additional Certificates:** Reading Endorsement, Critical Global Literacies, Transdisciplinary Literacies

DEGREE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The MA in Reading Education is a distinctive online program designed to prepare expert literacy educators and effective literacy leaders. Through interactive and engaging online technologies, students will expand their knowledge of global literacies, explore disciplinary literacy practices, develop critical literacies, and advance their digital and media literacy competencies.

**FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM**

1. **Expanding Knowledge of Global Literacies**  
   Developing students’ global understanding of literacy as a tool for communication is essential to lifelong learning. We consider multiple perspectives; embrace diversity, equity, and advocacy; and make informed, evidence-based decisions as we engage students in professional learning.
2. **Exploring Disciplinary Literacy Practices**  
   Disciplinary literacies and instructional practices are used when reading complex texts. We address the development of academic knowledge and the use of academic vocabulary across disciplines through customized literacy strategies.
3. **Developing Critical Literacy Pedagogies**  
   Developing critical literacy pedagogies requires literate consumers and producers. We adopt critical and questioning approaches to reading and composing texts.
4. **Advancing Media Literacy Competencies**  
   Expertise in literacy leadership is developed in a spiraled approach. We embed media literacy in each course and students develop competencies by applying various tools, engaging in video production and analysis, participating in synchronous and asynchronous facilitation, and using social networking and educational gaming as a learning tool.
5. **Developing Literacy Coaching Skills**  
   Professional development of coaching skills includes specific content, demonstrations, assignments, and activities that are relevant to school and out of school settings. Course objectives and instructional strategies support the development of leadership excellence in literacy coaching for public, private, and online school systems as well as for educational initiatives in business and industry.
6. **Offering a Completely Online Instructional Experience**  
   The Literacy Studies faculty are innovative leaders, experts from decades in online instructional practices. We advance students’ knowledge of literacy within the digital age while using adaptable digital pedagogies and embodied literacy learning in online courses.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The MA in Reading consists of 36 hours of required coursework.\*

**Reading Endorsement Courses (15 credits completed in Year 1)**

* RED 6749 History & Foundations in Reading
* RED 6540 Assessment in Developing Literacies
* RED 6544 Cognition, Comprehension & Content Area Reading
* RED 6545 Issues in Vocabulary & Word Study
* RED 6846 Practicum in Reading

**Literacy Specialization Courses (18 credits in Year 2)**

* LAE 6315 Composing Disciplinary Texts
* RED 6658 Foundations & Applications of Differentiated Reading Instruction
* RED 6247 Supervision & Coaching of Literacy
* RED 6068 Adolescent Literacies
* LAE 6656 Trends in Literature for a Diverse Society
* RED 6449 Literacy & Technology

**Measurement/Research (3 credits in Year 1)**

* EDF 6481 Foundations of Education Research

\*Candidates must also meet ESOL requirements for educational leaders through previous or additional coursework or district professional development.

\*\*Graduates must pass the State of Florida Reading Certification Exam

**Proposed Selection Process & Criteria**

A protocol for the District/University screening of candidates will be collaboratively developed with interested counties.

After all applications have been reviewed, eligible applicants will be interviewed by pairs of USF and County District staff.

Those applicants selected to apply to the USF/County Reading Academy Program will officially apply for admission and their applications will subsequently reviewed by USF literacy coordinator and the graduate school for admission.

**ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

**District Application Deadline: TBD**

**USF Application Deadline: TBD (Summer)**

**Preferred applicants must provide:**

• A minimum of three years (five years preferred) of post-bachelor’s teaching experience and a valid Florida Professional Educator’s Certificate by the application deadline of the semester before desired enrollment.

• A minimum 3.0 GPA in the last half of the bachelor’s degree earned at a regionally accredited institution (preferred).

• A letter of nomination from their school’s principal and documentation of teaching effectiveness.

• Two additional letters of recommendation.

• A current resume and statement of purpose/*Letter of Intent outlining their professional goals, commitment to and experience effectively working with and advocating for diverse learners, literacy teaching experience and other characteristics or experiences that will help them become effective literacy leaders.*

**Application Process:**

Cohort candidates must apply for admission to USF.

**How to Apply**:

1. Submit an application and supporting documents by the [**application deadline**](http://www.grad.usf.edu/programs/search_all.php) for the desired term of entry.
2. [**Apply online**](https://secure.vzcollegeapp.com/usf/default.aspx?cid=87&ltid=1) through The USF Office of Admissions.
3. Submit one original, sealed copy of undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) transcripts to the [**Office of Graduate Studies**](http://www.grad.usf.edu/). Previous USF graduates do not need to submit transcripts of USF coursework.
4. Submit GRE scores, if requested by the program, to the [**Office of Graduate Studies**](http://www.grad.usf.edu/). (Applicants with upper division GPA below 3.0 only)

**Program Costs:**

USF Graduate School Application Fee = $35.00

**Tuition and Fees**

Graduate Credit hour = $431.43

Per semester (6 hours) = $2,588.48

**Program total (36 hours) = $15,531.48**

**Estimated cost of textbooks and fees** = $100-$300 per semester

We propose, as we have done previously, that Cohort Candidates pay all tuition and fees and apply to the district for reimbursement for approved expenses. We are able to brainstorm various financing plans when organizing the cohorts.

**Estimated Cost to District\*:**

**Cohort of 15:**

**Full tuition and fees (Does not include textbooks and fees): $232,972.20**

**Half tuition and fees (Does not include textbooks and fees): $116,486.10**

**Cohort of 20:**

**Full tuition and fees (Does not include textbooks and fees): $310,629.60**

**Half tuition and fees (Does not include textbooks and fees): $155,314.80**

\*Based upon current tuition and fee structure, which is subject to change.

**Tentative Cohort Development Timeline:**

Recruitment – October-November

Screening – December

USF Application – January

Program Orientation - April

Program Coursework begins – May

Program Completion –May of following year (Fast Track) or May of the next year

Reading Certification Exam prior to graduation.

**Ed.D. Options for Master’s Degree Holders:**

USF also offers an **Educational Doctorate in Program Development** with an emphasis in educational innovation. USF's Ed.D. in Program Development prepares graduates to create, launch, and evaluate promising, sustainable innovations in their own professional settings. The program is open to Pre-K through grade 12 educators, post-secondary educators, and educational professionals who work in the private sector, with nonprofits, or other government or service agencies.

<https://www.usf.edu/education/program-development/>

**The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Curriculum and Instruction with an Emphasis in Literacy Studies.** The Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a concentration in Literacy Studies prepares research scholars with expertise in literacy processes, literacy instruction, and literacy teacher education.

This residential program is offered on the Tampa campus and features:

* In-depth exploration of literacy theories and research,
* The broad study of standardized analysis skills,
* Training of various research methodologies,
* The development of personalized strands of research,
* A mentored residency experience in literacy teacher education.

**FEATURES OF THE PROGRAM**

* Mentored **Research** experiences based on the highest standards of discovery, creativity, and intellectual achievement.
* Innovative **Teaching** as an interactive process with community involvement in which literacies are viewed as mediated abilities within a contributing culture.
* Engaged **Service** to the Community to enrich the lives of students and teachers by promoting the importance of sponsorship and independence through the development of literacies in the lives of children, adolescents, and adults.
* **Global Perspectives** broadened through partnerships in diverse communities that embrace multiple perspectives and transnational literacy practices.
* Integrated **Technology** and Digital Literacies as tools for exploring literacy across multiple contexts and within a digitally-mediated society.
* **Student Success** as a shared responsibility and mutual goal of the doctoral student, faculty, and program.

<https://www.usf.edu/education/areas-of-study/literacy-studies/programs/doctor-of-philosophy/index.aspx>

Please contact me for any follow-up regarding a possible cohort in your county district

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