

SUNY Buffalo State
Elementary Education and Reading Department
Literacy Specialist – Birth - Grade 12 (LBT)
APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applicants to the Literacy Specialist (LBT) program must be certified or eligible for certification in Elementary Education, Childhood and /or Early Childhood Education, a secondary subject area, Special Education, Art Education, Physical Education, or other educational area.

Applicants must:

1. Have degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale) in undergraduate work. **Please submit all transcripts.**
3. Submit a copy of New York State Initial Certification in Childhood and/or Early Childhood or New York State Certificate of Qualification or Provisional Certification in Elementary Education at the time of application. If you are a recent graduate or just completing your undergraduate program at the time of application, write in the date certification is expected on the application. You must submit proof of your teaching certificate to the Elementary Education and Reading Department by the time you apply for candidacy (after completing 6 credits and before the completion of 12 credits). If you do not obtain your initial certification for any reason before completing the master's program, you will not be recommended for professional certification by SUNY Buffalo State.
4. Submit a score from either the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) OR the Graduate Record Exam (GRE)
5. Write a well-crafted statement addressing the following:
 - a) Your reasons for seeking Literacy Specialist certification.
 - b) The professional challenge(s) you encountered during your field experiences/first classroom experiences that you hope to address in your graduate work.
 - c) What you hope to learn in your graduate program focusing on your interest in working with struggling readers.

Your statement will be evaluated according to the following criteria (**see rubric**):

- a) Organization
- b) Conventions of language
- c) Content
- d) Interest in working with struggling readers, rationale, and significant support for rationale

NOTE: Please refer to the rubric provided with the application materials for the statement prompts and specific evaluation criteria.

6. Submit three letters of reference on **special literacy specialist program forms** that attest to the applicant's potential as a literacy specialist (included in application packet). Please note that references should be from professors, school administrators, cooperating teachers (only one), or student teaching supervisors (only one).
7. Submit a professional resume'.

Applicants will be judged on demonstrated academic records, the strength of recommendations and the quality of the candidate's statement.

Further information about this program is available from:

Dr. Keli Garas-York, Literacy Specialist Program Coordinator and Literacy Center Director

Bacon Hall 316F

Phone: 878-5615

E-mail: garasyka@buffalostate.edu

Application Deadline Dates

Spring: October 1; Summer: March 1; Fall: May1

All documentation needs to be submitted in order to process your application.

Please return your completed application and all supplemental materials to the Graduate School Office, GC 204.

SUNY Buffalo State
Elementary Education and Reading Department
Master of Science in Education: Literacy Specialist - Birth to Grade 12 (LBT)

Program Requirements:

REQUIRED COURSES*: (36 credit hours)

EDU 513 - Theory, Research and Practice in Literacy Instruction (3 crs.)

EDU 535 - Teaching Writing: B-12 (3 crs.)

EDU 606 - Literacy Instruction for Linguistically Diverse Students (3 crs.)

EDU 609 - Literacy Instruction in the Upper Grades (3 crs.)

EDU 611 - Literacy Instruction in the Primary Grades (3 crs.)

EDU 612 - Developing Literacy through Literature (3 crs.)

EDU 642 - Reading Assessment & Evaluation (3 crs.) – prerequisites – EDU 513 and two other courses

EDU 643 - Teaching Strategies for Students with Reading Difficulties (3 crs.) – prerequisite EDU 642

EDU 646 - Literacy Leadership (3crs.)

EDU 650 - Literacy Theory and Research (3crs.)

EDU 647 - Clinical Practicum (3 crs.) – prerequisites EDU 642 and EDU 643

EDU 655 - Seminar in Reading (3 crs.)

*Please note that the program may be completed on a part-time basis through advisement. Pre-requisites apply.

Elementary Education and Reading Department Master's Programs
Please read each option carefully so you know what program is best for you.

1. If you are you completing a program leading to **Initial Certification in Childhood and Early Childhood (combined)**, you may apply to:
 - **Childhood & Early Childhood: Curriculum and Instruction (CUR)** You will be eligible for professional certification in your initial certification area(s).
 - **Literacy Specialist, Birth - Grade 12 (LBT)** You will be eligible for professional certification in literacy, Birth - Grade 12 and in your prior certification area(s).

2. If you are you completing a program leading to **Initial Certification in Childhood**, you may apply to:
 - **Childhood & Early Childhood: Curriculum and Instruction (CUR)** You will be eligible for professional certification in your initial certification area(s). (Note that if you want to add Early Childhood certification, this is the program you should enter. You will be able to complete the early childhood concentration and then apply for Early Childhood certification through BOCES or NYSED.)
 - **Literacy Specialist, Birth - Grade 12 (LBT)** You will be eligible for professional certification in literacy, Birth - Grade 12 and in your prior certification area(s).

3. If you are you completing a program leading to **Initial Certification in Early Childhood**, you may apply to:
 - **Childhood & Early Childhood: Curriculum and Instruction (CUR)** You will be eligible for professional certification in your initial certification area(s). (Note that if you want to add Childhood certification, this is the program you should enter. You will need to have your transcripts reviewed through BOCES or NYSED, take the courses they suggest and apply for the additional certification.)
 - **Literacy Specialist, Birth - Grade 12 (LBT)** You will be eligible for professional certification in literacy, Birth - Grade 12 and in your prior certification area(s).

4. If you are you completing a program leading to **Initial Certification in a secondary subject area, special education, art education, physical education, or other educational area**, you may apply to:
 - **Literacy Specialist, Birth - Grade 12 (LBT)** You will be eligible for professional certification in literacy, Birth - Grade 12 and in your prior certification area(s).

5. If you are completing a bachelor's degree program that **does not lead to teacher certification**, you may qualify for the:
 - **Childhood & Early Childhood: Master's Including Initial Teacher Certification (CEC)**

Application deadlines:

Childhood & Early Childhood: Curriculum and Instruction (CUR), Literacy Specialist (LBT), and Childhood & Early Childhood Education: Master's Including Initial Teacher Certification (CEC):
Spring: October 1; Summer: March 1; Fall: May 1

Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early to ensure the processing of their application materials.
All documentation needs to be submitted in order to process your application.

SUNY BUFFALO STATE
LITERACY SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

REFERENCE FORM

CANDIDATES PLEASE NOTE: **Candidates** should return the completed reference forms to the Graduate School Office (GC 204) with all application materials. Reference forms received separately will be returned to the referrer or the applicant.

REFERENCE PLEASE NOTE: Return this form **to the candidate** in a sealed and signed envelope.

Applicant's Name: _____

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

Please rate the applicant in the following areas:

	Outstanding	Good	Average	Below Average	Unknown
The applicant's academic writing is...					
The applicant's expressive communication is...					
The applicant's ability to work independently is...					
The applicant's professionalism is...					
The applicant's work ethic is...					
The applicant's ability to work with others is...					
The applicant's depth of content knowledge in the field of education is...					
The applicant's potential as a graduate student is...					
The applicant's potential as a literacy specialist is...					

**Additional comments can be attached or included on the back of this form, if necessary.

Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Title/Position _____

Name of School/Business _____

Address _____

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The applicant's potential as a graduate student is...					
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The applicant's depth of content knowledge in the field of education is...					
The applicant's potential as a graduate student is...					
The applicant's potential as a literacy specialist is...					

**Additional comments can be attached or included on the back of this form, if necessary.

Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____

Title/Position _____

Name of School/Business _____

Address _____

To all graduate students applying to the Literacy Specialist program in the Elementary Education and Reading Department: The Literacy Specialist Admissions Committee will use the following rubric to evaluate your application. Please be certain to carefully review the rubric *prior* to submitting your application. Please pay particular attention to the point distribution.

TASK - Complete a word-processed statement addressing the following:
 a) Describe your reasons for seeking Literacy Specialist certification.
 b) Describe the professional challenge(s) you encountered during your field experiences/first classroom experiences that you hope to address in your graduate work.
 c) Discuss what you hope to learn in your graduate program focusing on your interest in working with struggling readers.

Score	Points	4	3	2	1
_____/4 x 2 = ____	Transcript Review of Education Courses	Consistently high grades in education courses	Grades are generally high in education courses with one or two exceptions	Three to four low grades in education courses	Consistently low grades in education courses
_____/4 X 2 = ____	3 - References	Checklist ratings are mostly "outstanding"	Checklist ratings are mostly "good" and above	Checklist ratings are mostly "average" and some ratings are "good"	Checklist ratings are mostly "below average" and some ratings are "average"
_____/4	Organization of Statement	Overall, the statement is very coherent Written with excellent planning. Meaningful, clear transitions between paragraphs.	Overall, the statement demonstrates good coherency. Written with good planning. Good transitions between paragraphs.	Overall, the statement demonstrates some coherency. Written with some planning Some attempt at transitions between paragraphs.	Overall, the statement lacks coherency. Lacks indication of planning. Lacks transitions between paragraphs.
_____/4	Mechanics	No grammar, spelling or punctuation errors.	One to three grammar, spelling or punctuation errors.	Four serious grammar, spelling or punctuation errors.	Five or more grammar, spelling or punctuation errors.
_____/4 X 2 = ____	Content of Goals	Significant evidence of reflective thinking. Responds to all prompts and includes several specific examples to support ideas.	Some evidence of reflective thinking. Responds to all prompts and includes several specific examples to support the ideas.	Minimal evidence of reflective thinking and/or does not respond to all prompts and includes some specific examples to support ideas.	No evidence of reflective thinking and/or does not respond to all prompts and/or support responses with specific examples.
_____/4	Relevant professional, teaching and life experiences (beyond student teaching) included in resume/	Articulates many relevant professional or personal related experiences.	Articulates some relevant professional or personal related experiences.	Minimally articulates any relevant professional or personal related experiences.	Little or no evidence articulated of professional or personal related experiences.
_____/2	Interest in working with struggling readers		Strong Interest Rationale is clearly stated with several supporting reasons 2	Mentioned Interest Rationale includes minimal support. 1	No Interest Mentioned Rationale includes no support 0

_____/38					
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