



## **NON-DEGREE ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM FOR READING SPECIALIST** **Leading to NJ Reading Specialist Certification**

**NOTE: The Non-Degree Reading Specialist program is not currently accepting new applications.**

- I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** This program is designed for individuals who wish to receive the Reading Specialist Certification by taking GSE courses on-campus and online. The certification permits individuals to work as a reading/literacy specialist in public and private schools grades K-12. The program is designed to enable teachers to plan programs appropriate for children of differing abilities and diverse cultural backgrounds based on research and theory, to foster a vision of literacy learning as an active social process in which students become engaged readers with strategies for independent reading, and the motivation to read for pleasure and for information.

In order to apply for this program, an applicant must already possess a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate, have two years full-time teaching experience, and must hold a master's degree. (Anyone interested in becoming certified as a reading specialist while simultaneously earning a master's degree must apply to the Ed.M. program in Reading with certification rather than this program.)

Students admitted to this non-degree program may apply to the Ed.M. program in Reading with Reading Specialist Certification, **prior to completing 12 credits** and, **upon acceptance**, may complete both the Reading Specialist Certificate and the master's degree. Additional requirements beyond the 30 required credits for the certificate include taking 6 credits in consultation with an advisor and completing a portfolio project. It is essential that you apply early because taking the courses does not guarantee acceptance to the master's program.

- II. APPLICATION DEADLINES:** No applications can be admitted less than two weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the program would be started. Applications must be submitted and complete at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester.
- III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must provide all of the following:
1. A Statement of Program Intent
  2. An electronic copy of a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate.
  3. Verification of experience from the applicant's current or previous supervisor or HR department, on school district letterhead, certifying the completion of **two years** of successful, full-time employment and a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate.
  4. Graduate transcripts

Only complete applications will be reviewed.

#### IV. HOW TO APPLY:

**Current Rutgers University Graduate Students:** All applicants who are **currently** enrolled in a graduate-level program at Rutgers University and wish to begin the endorsement program while continuing their current program should contact the GSE Office of Student and Academic Services (OSAS) at [academic.services@gse.rutgers.edu](mailto:academic.services@gse.rutgers.edu).

**Non-Rutgers University Graduate Students:** Applicants who are **not currently** enrolled in a program at Rutgers University apply online at the Graduate Admissions website: <http://gradstudy.rutgers.edu/>

1. Click on "Create Account or Login" and follow the instructions given.
2. Under "Start an application today!", click **Apply Now**  
[Application Selection](#)
3. For "Level of Application", select **Graduate**
4. For "Applicant Type", select **Certificate**
5. Continue filling out the application, following the on-screen instructions.  
[Program of Study](#)
6. Under "Program Information", make sure **Certificate** is selected for "Applicant Type"
7. For "Area of Study", select **Education**
8. For "Location/Instructional Method", select **New Brunswick**
9. For "Program Selection", select **Education - Reading Specialist Certification (Endorsement) New Brunswick**
10. Complete the rest of the application by providing the requested information.
11. Supporting materials should be submitted online. Materials that must be mailed should be addressed to:  
Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Proctor Hall, Suite 308, 65 Davidson Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854, U.S.A.
12. Enter payment information for the non-refundable application fee.
13. Submit your application.

Applicants are responsible for reviewing and confirming that they meet program requirements **before** the application is submitted. Rutgers Graduate School of Education **WILL NOT** refund the application fee if an applicant is not accepted.

When the entire application process is complete, students simply register for the courses in the program as described on the program handout and on the GSE website at [gse.rutgers.edu](http://gse.rutgers.edu). It is the responsibility of the student to enroll in all of the required courses through Rutgers University. **No program requirements may be met at any other institution.** Students are expected to maintain a "B" or better average as a non-degree student. Accepted students will have 5 years to complete the program.

The program requires 30 credits of Rutgers University graduate coursework but does not lead to a graduate degree. If the student later decides to apply to the Reading Specialist Ed.M. program in s/he must formally apply to the master's program.

After completing all of the required courses in the program, students should contact the Office of Academic Services at the GSE to notify them and to secure an application for the state endorsement. GSE personnel will then forward the completed application to Trenton along with a recommendation that the certification be awarded.

**V. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:**

	Course Number	Course Name	Credits	
			Grad	Total
<b>Core Courses</b>	15:299:561	Theoretical Foundations of Literacy – Research, Policy and Practice	3	12
	15:299:564	Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Difficulties	3	
	15:299:565	Clinical Practicum (Laboratory in Remedial Reading)	3	
	15:299:566	Literacy Research and Supervision	3	
<b>Courses in Literacy Methods</b> (Select 3 courses from this group)	15:250:592	Summer Institute in Literacy	3	9
	15:252:517	Teaching the Language Arts	3	
	15:252:519	Teaching Writing for Children and Adolescents	3	
	15:252:521	Teachers as Writers	3	
	15:252:522	Multimodal and Digital Literacies	3	
	15:252:525	Writing Project Workshop: Bringing Research and Theory into Practice	3	
	15:252:526	Teaching Struggling Readers	3	
	15:299:514	Literacy Development in the Early Years	3	
	15:299:515	Literacy Strategies for Secondary-Level and Adult Learners	3	
	15:299:516	Literacy Development in the Elementary and Middle School	3	
	15:299:533	Coaching: Leadership, Supervision, and Professional Development in Literacy Instruction and Other Content Areas	3	
<b>Materials and Methods for Children and Adolescents</b> (Select 1)	15:252:520	Adolescent Literature for Secondary Students	3	3
	15:299:509	Children's Literature in the Early Childhood and Elementary School Curriculum	3	
<b>Study in Supervision</b> (Select 1)	15:230:512	Administration and Supervision of Elementary and Secondary Schools	3	3
	15:230:521	Supervision of Instruction	3	
<b>Study in Special Education</b> (Select 1)	15:293:522	Learning Disabilities	3	3
	15:293:525	Psychology of the Exceptional Child	3	
	15:293:533	Assessment and Measurement for Special Education	3	
<b>Total Credits</b>			<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>

**VI. PORTFOLIO:** A portfolio project is a required culminating activity for the program. More information about this requirement is available from the program faculty.

**VII. HIB TRAINING:** All candidates for certification must complete pre-service training in the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB).

**VIII. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION:** No comprehensive examination is required.