

ADVANCED CERTIFICATION IN EARLY LITERACY SPECIALIST

Non-degree program leading to NJ Early Literacy Specialist certification

- I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** The Advanced Certification in Early Literacy Specialist non-degree program at the GSE is designed for certified teachers who wish to work as an early reading/literacy specialist, coach, and/or basic skills teacher in public and private schools, serving preschool through grades 3. Upon completion of this 18-credit program, candidates will be eligible for certification as an Early Literacy Specialist.

Students enrolled in the program will develop advanced understanding of early literacy instruction by taking research-driven core courses, led by expert faculty and involving the development of early literacy skills, early diagnosis and remediation of reading problems, curriculum development, supervised clinical practicum, and supervision of early literacy programs.

This 18-credit sequence is embedded within the 33-credit Ed.M. with Advanced Licensure in Reading Specialist and Supervisor. Students in the Non-degree Advanced Licensure in Early Literacy Specialist program may apply for the Ed.M. with Advanced Licensure in Reading Specialist and Supervisor program and if accepted, apply earned program credits toward the Ed.M. Acceptance into the Ed.M. is not guaranteed.

Eligible non-degree Advanced Licensure in Early Literacy Specialist program applicants must have a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate in Preschool through Grade Three or Elementary, as well as a minimum of **two years of successful, full-time employment working as a classroom teacher**. Students must have completed **three years** of full-time employment working as a classroom teacher by **program completion** to receive the endorsement.

- II. APPLICATION DEADLINES:** No applications can be admitted less than two weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the program will be started. Applications must be submitted and completed at least two weeks before the beginning of the semester.
- III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:** To be considered for admission to the program, applicants must provide the following:
1. A statement of program intent
 2. Undergraduate transcripts
 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 as a classroom teacher and a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate or Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing
 4. Electronic copy of a New Jersey Standard Instructional Certificate in Preschool through Grade Three or Elementary.

Only complete applications will be reviewed.

IV. HOW TO APPLY:

Current Rutgers University 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.

Non-Rutgers University Students: Applicants who are **not currently** enrolled in a program at Rutgers University apply online at the Graduate Admissions website: <https://newbrunswickgrad.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 – Advanced Licensure in Early Literacy 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 handouts and on the GSE website gse.rutgers.edu. The student is responsible for enrolling in all 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 in the Special Education Endorsement Program. Accepted students will have 5 years to complete the program.

The program requires 18 credits of Rutgers University graduate coursework but does not lead to a graduate degree. If the student decides to apply to the Ed.M. in Reading Education, they must formally apply to the master's program.

After completing all program requirements, students should contact Ken Tufo Jr. at ken.tufo@gse.rutgers.edu. Students will be provided instructions on how to apply for their license(s).

V. PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

Course Number	Course Name	Credits
15:299:509	Children's Literature in Early Childhood through Adolescence	3
15:299:514	Literacy Development in the Early Years: Helping Children Read and Write	3
15:299:561	Supervised Practice: Literacy Theory, Research, Professional Learning, Curriculum (45 hours of Clinical Practice)	3
15:299:564	Diagnosis and Correction of Literacy Learning Needs	3
15:299:565	Supervised Practicum: Diagnosis and Correction of Literacy Needs (45 hours of Clinical Practice)	3
15:299:566	Seminar in Literacy Research, Professional Development and Curriculum Design	3
	Total Credits	18

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