READING SPECIALIST (MSE)

Curriculum and Instruction - Instructional Leadership

Advance your expertise in literacy instruction with the MSE in Curriculum and Instruction – Reading Specialist focus. Designed for educators serving PK–12 learners, this program strengthens instructional practice through advanced study of reading theory, curriculum design, assessment, and instructional leadership. You'll examine the foundations of literacy development, including phonics, comprehension, and writing, while learning to support diverse and struggling readers through data-informed assessment and targeted intervention. Coursework emphasizes practical application in classroom and school-based settings, preparing educators for reading specialist and literacy leadership roles. The program aligns with Nebraska reading specialist licensure requirements, with applicability that may vary by state.

fast facts

Degree offered: Master of Science in Education (MSE) in Curriculum and Instruction – Instructional Leadership / Reading Specialist (PK-12)

Credit hours: 36

Cost per credit hour: $404 total *(includes $261.90 tuition + $142.10 fees)*

Delivery method: Online

Department: Educational Foundations and Leadership

School: Education and Behavioral Sciences

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Literacy theory and reading development
- Phonics, comprehension, and writing instruction
- Literacy assessment and diagnostic evaluation
- Data-informed reading interventions
- Instructional leadership and literacy coaching
- Curriculum design and program development
- Support for diverse and struggling readers
- Technology integration in literacy instruction

Possible Careers

- Elementary school teacher
- Reading specialist
- Title I reading teacher
- Literacy specialist
- Instructional coach
- Reading interventionist
- Curriculum specialist
- Literacy coach
- Academic intervention specialist

Types of Employers

- PK–12 school districts
- Elementary and secondary schools
- Educational service units (ESUs)
- Charter and alternative schools
- State and regional education agencies
- Literacy-focused nonprofit organizations
- Private and parochial schools

recognized for excellence

Our graduate programs are nationally recognized for their excellence, exceptional value, and flexible learning options — consistently earning top distinctions for affordability and quality.



Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees in the U.S.
Wayne State College was ranked among the Top 10 most affordable online master's degree programs in the nation by *Intelligent.com* for 2025.



College of Distinction
Wayne State College has been recognized as a College of Distinction, an honor that highlights institutions for engaged students, great teaching, a vibrant campus community, and successful outcomes.

Program courses

2026-27 Academic Year

The following courses are required for the program of study described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for registering and taking these courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Program requirements: 36 credit hours

Core courses (12 credit hours)

EDU 603 Introduction to Educational Research and Design 3
EDU 621 Education Program Orientation 0
EDU 652 Instructional Theory and Practice 3
EDU 658 Fundamentals of Curriculum Development PK-16 3
Select one of the following 3

- EDU 674 History and Philosophy of Education (3)
- MAT 645 Current Trends in Mathematics Curriculum and Teaching (3)

Reading Specialist focus area (18 credit hours)

This endorsement requires an applicant to have a valid regular teaching certificate. See non-degree seeking endorsement only options for more information.

EDU 642 Foundations of Literacy 3
EDU 647 Instructional Theory and Practice in Literacy 3
EDU 648 Advanced Assessment and Interventions in Literacy 3
EDU 649 Instructional Leadership in Literacy 3
EDU 682 Developing and Integrating Technology in the Classroom 3
EDU 698 Practicum or Seminar 3

questions? contact:

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