The Master of Arts in Literacy Education (formerly M.A. in Reading) is an advanced graduate program leading to Reading Specialist certification in West Virginia.

Revised Fall 2017
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Welcome

Welcome to West Virginia University’s Literacy Education (LE) Master of Arts advanced graduate program. Our program’s goal is to prepare candidates to be certified as Reading Specialists (Pre-K-Adult) and to fulfill the roles of specialized reading professionals currently outlined by the International Literacy Association (ILA). These roles include: Reading/Literacy Specialist, Literacy Coach and Literacy Coordinator.

Our 30-credit Master program, housed in the College of Education and Human Services (CEHS), is nationally accredited through the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and International Literacy Association. As such, we use the International Literacy Association’s Standards for Reading Professionals as an anchor and framework for this program. Please visit http://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/standards/standards-for-reading-professionals/standards-introduction for more information the standards.

In this handbook, you will find information on a variety of topics from technology to LE program of studies to faculty and other CEHS and WVU services for graduate education. Again, welcome to this program. You have made a wise career decision for your professional development and growth as a practitioner. We predict your current and future students will certainly thank you for earning this advanced graduate degree.

Allison Swan Dagen
Allison Swan Dagen, PhD
Allison.swan@mail.wvu.edu
304-293-4417
Associate Professor & LE Program Coordinator
Program Highlights

• 30-credit MA program
• 100% online graduate coursework (synchronous and asynchronous)
• Redesigned program and curriculum (Fall 2017)
• Flexible program scheduling (multiple offering Fall, Spring and Summer)
• Ongoing admissions cycle/applications accepted on rolling basis
• School-based intervention practicum
  
  Supervised by University personnel

• Novice literacy coaching experiences
• Courses taught by CEHS professors and adjuncts with online teaching experience.
• Nationally Recognized Program ILA/CAEP
• 95% of graduates pass the Reading Specialist praxis on their first attempt.
  
  West Virginia pass rate for Reading Specialist Praxis #5301 is 164.
• CEHS Scholarships available
  
  Applications due in November for the following academic year (FAFSA on file required for application)

College of Education and Human Services
West Virginia University
# Faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Contact Information</th>
<th>Graduate Faculty Status</th>
<th>Research Foci</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Allison Swan Dagen</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Effective professional development for literacy educators, Reading Specialists/Literacy Coach preparation, teachers’ literacy leadership, National Board Teaching Certification and emergent literacy practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Hall 604-O</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(304) 293-4417</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:allison.swan@mail.wvu.edu">allison.swan@mail.wvu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dr. Aimee Morewood</strong></td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>Effective professional development for literacy educators, word study instruction for elementary students, systemic change through teacher leadership, and emergent literacy practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Hall 602-I</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(304) 293-8245</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:aimee.morewood@mail.wvu.edu">aimee.morewood@mail.wvu.edu</a></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please see the “Meet our Faculty” page for bios of all program adjunct instructors and graduate assistants.
Application Procedures & Requirements

Individuals may apply at any time during a term for admission for the next term or later. Early application is recommended to allow for processing time and faculty review.

http://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/

To apply:
• Create an account at: https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=wvugrad
• Complete application process and upload any required documents electronically
• Program title: LITERACY EDUCATION
• Application may be saved at any time during the process to return to later.
• Once completed, click submit.
• There is an application fee of $60.00 payable by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card.
• The Office of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment will pre-screen your application and forward it to your individual program.

Program requirements include:
   Bachelor’s degree.
   Minimum grade point average of 2.75 on all previous completed coursework.
   Provisional admission is possible with program faculty approval if the grade point average on previous coursework falls below the minimum requirement.
   Valid state teaching license.
   Applicants may also be asked to provide a writing sample and/or references.
   Applicants must also meet general university graduate program requirements.
   Additional review is then completed by the specific program faculty who recommend for or against admission. (Neither GRE nor MAT scores are required for specific program admission.)
   Following admission, an identified program faculty member will serve as the academic program advisor for the admitted candidate.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Office of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment
West Virginia University
PO Box 6510
Morgantown, WV 26506-6510
Phone: 304-293-5980 Fax:304-293-1147
GraduateAdmissions@mail.wvu.edu
Graduate Assistantships, Financial Aid & Scholarships

**Graduate Assistantships**
Graduate Assistantships are available within CEHS, CILS Department, Literacy Education Programs and/or for specific grant funded projects. For programs currently hiring and applications visit: [http://cehs.wvu.edu/grad/ga-positions](http://cehs.wvu.edu/grad/ga-positions)

**Financial Aid**
Graduate students are eligible for federal loans but do not qualify for federal or state grants. Visit the WVU Financial Aid Site for assistance and scholarship information: [http://financialaid.wvu.edu/](http://financialaid.wvu.edu/)

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is due by February 1st each year. However, it is beneficial to submit the FAFSA as soon as possible. For more information on the FAFSA visit: [https://fafsa.ed.gov/](https://fafsa.ed.gov/)

**Full-time/Part-time Status**
A student is classified as either full-time or part-time in any given enrollment period. A graduate student is classified as full-time if enrolled for at least 9 credit hours during fall and spring semesters and at least 6 credit hours during the summer semester.

**CEHS Scholarship Application Guidelines**
To be eligible, students must have a current year FAFSA form on file with the WVU Financial Aid Office. Visit the following link for available scholarships and award criteria: [http://cehs.wvu.edu/scholarships](http://cehs.wvu.edu/scholarships)
Coursework

Required Classes – 30 hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE NUMBER</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CREDIT HOURS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 620</td>
<td>Specialized Literacy Professional*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 621</td>
<td>Reading and Writing Instruction in Elementary Schools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 622</td>
<td>Content and Disciplinary Area Literacy Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 624</td>
<td>Foundations of Literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 627</td>
<td>Developing Reading Interests *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 640</td>
<td>Instructing Students Who Have Reading Difficulties*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 682</td>
<td>Assessment of Reading Ability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 689</td>
<td>Intervention for Struggling Readers*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG 726</td>
<td>Literacy Leadership *</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDNG xxx</td>
<td>Elective Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL HOURS</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* School based assignments required in this course.

Must complete at least 21 hours before enrolling in RDNG 689 and RDNG 726.

Questions about transferring coursework contact CEHS Office of Student Success [https://cehs.wvu.edu/advising](https://cehs.wvu.edu/advising)
## Course Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fall     | RDNG 620  
          | RDNG 621  
          | RDNG 624  
          | RDNG 627  
          | RDNG 640  
          | RDNG 689/practicum  
          | RDNG 726  |
| Spring   | RDNG 620  
          | RDNG 622  
          | RDNG 624  
          | RDNG 627  
          | RDNG 682  
          | RDNG 689/practicum  
          | RDNG 726  |
| Summer   | RDNG 621  
          | RDNG 622  
          | RDNG 640  
          | RDNG 682  
          | RDNG 682  
          | RDNG Electives  |

- Please note, this schedule is subject to change.
- All coursework must be completed within 8 years of admission.
- Summer term is not a program requirement.
- Candidates do not have to enroll in contiguous semesters.
- Program faculty recommends all LE candidates who are employed full or part time register for a maximum of six credits per semester for fall and spring.
Course Descriptions

RDNG 620. Specialized Literacy Professional. 3 Hours. Addresses history of the role of reading specialist, adult learning theory and contemporary research on the current role of the Specialized Literacy Professional (SLP)/Reading Specialist.

RDNG 621. Reading & Writing Instruction in Elementary Schools. 3 Hours. Examines processes of reading and writing at the elementary school level. Explores instructional practices associated with those processes.

RDNG 622. Content Area Literacy Instruction. 3 Hours. Presents essential content area literacy skills and examines ways in which they may be developed in various subject matter areas.

RDNG 624. Foundations of Literacy. 3 Hours. Inquiry into the historical, psychological, and linguistic foundations underpinning literacy instruction. Students will also consider the interdisciplinary nature of the study of literacy.

RDNG 627. Developing Reading Interests. 3 Hours. Emphasis on methods and techniques for developing reading habits, interests, and tastes and on motivating individuals to read. Special attention is given to instructional practices which support the pursuit of independent reading.

RDNG 640. Instructing Students-Reading Difficulties 3 Hours. PR: RDNG 621 and). A methods course that emphasizes ways to intervene when students face reading difficulties. Course focuses on methods that can be used by classroom teachers, reading specialists, and other special teachers of reading and language arts.

RDNG 682. Assessment of Reading Ability. 3 Hours. Focuses on methods and issues related to the assessment of reading ability. Students acquire reading specialist level knowledge and implementation skill of format and informal reading assessment and consider related issues of classroom and clinic application.

RDNG 689. Intervention 3 Hours. PR: 21 hours of M.A. requirements Designed to give literacy education candidates opportunities to apply the theoretical concepts from previous coursework to practical teaching contexts. The practicum is defined as fieldwork experience that combines whole group class meetings, individual intervention sessions with K-12 student, peer-coaching sessions, and individual supervision sessions.

RDNG 726. Literacy Leadership. 3 Hours. PR: 21 hours of M.A. requirements. Roles, responsibilities, and practices of reading specialists, administrators, and classroom teachers in organizing literacy programs from early childhood through college
Technology

Assistance
The main point of contact for all areas of technology support is the Information Technology Services (ITS) service desk. Contact the ITS service desk by phone at 304-293-4444 or Toll Free at 1-877-327-9260 by email at ITSHelp@mail.wvu.edu. For office hours and more information about ITS visit: http://it.wvu.edu/support/service-desk.

On-line Resources
MIX
Access MIX to check student email account, enter star, visit and use online library resources, access eCampus and view course information.
• If accessing MIX for the first time visit: http://admissions.wvu.edu/admitted/transfer-students/log-into-mix for step by step directions.
• MIX Login Page: https://sso.wvu.edu/cas/login?service=https%3A%2F%2Fidp.wvu.edu%2Fidp%2FAuthn%2FRemoteUser%3Fconversation%3De1s1

WVU Libraries
Access WVU Libraries to find and reserve materials online, check out eBooks, and use ILLiad to have materials sent by mail. Click the following link for directions and access to WVU online libraries: https://lib.wvu.edu/services/distance

eCampus
The LE program utilizes the eCampus platform for all online coursework. For PDF and online tutorials about eCampus and its resources visit: http://ecampusinfo.wvu.edu/student/student-resources. To access eCampus visit: https://ecampus.wvu.edu/webapps/login/

Software, Equipment and Accounts
Required Software:
• Live Text, a data management system purchased through WVU bookstore. For information and instruction on how to purchase visit: http://cehs.wvu.edu/livetext
• Requirements: Microsoft Office, video camera, tripod, high speed internet required equipment
  Purchase software at significant discounts off standard retail prices at: https://wvu.onthehub.com/WebStore/Welcome.aspx
University Resources & CEHS Policies

1. **Grading:** CHES follows the University’s policies regarding grading, incompletes, and all other student reporting. Please read grading information here: [http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#gradestext](http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/enrollmentandregistration/#gradestext)

2. **Live Text:** As an LE student you will be required to purchase Live Text. Please visit [http://cehs.wvu.edu/livetext](http://cehs.wvu.edu/livetext) for information and instructions.

3. **eCampus:** The LE program uses the eCampus platform for its online courses. Technology and internet access are required for access and participation. For access to eCampus visit: [https://ecampus.wvu.edu/webapps/login/](https://ecampus.wvu.edu/webapps/login/). For instructions and tutorials visit: [http://ecampusinfo.wvu.edu/student/student-resources](http://ecampusinfo.wvu.edu/student/student-resources).

4. **Independent Studies:** In order to be considered for an Independent Study, a candidate must work with his/her advisor and/or instructor of record to complete a proposal form. Once the proposal is approved, the candidate can register for the course. This process must be started before the beginning of the semester.

5. **Contact Hours:** One credit hour of online learning is equivalent to fifteen (15) hours of direct instruction and thirty hours of student work. Direct instruction can occur via computer-assisted (modules), multi-media interaction, discussions, and/or completion of exams/quizzes/assessments as documented in the course syllabus and approved to meet best practices in online learning. Student work includes activities like readings and supplemental homework. Students must fulfill these hours to complete the course requirements as set forth by the course instructor. Online courses developed from existing face-to-face instruction adhere to the defined learning outcomes and assessments of the original face-to-face format for the course. All WVU online programs are reviewed for nationally accepted standards for online learning. [http://catalog.wvu.edu/archivedcatalog/2013-2014/healthsciences/academicinformation/](http://catalog.wvu.edu/archivedcatalog/2013-2014/healthsciences/academicinformation/)

6. **Graduation Information:** [http://cehs.wvu.edu/advising/apply-to-graduate](http://cehs.wvu.edu/advising/apply-to-graduate)

7. **Praxis Information:** [https://www.ets.org/praxis/wv/requirements/](https://www.ets.org/praxis/wv/requirements/) PRAXIS #5301, pass rate for West Virginia is 164.

8. **Degree Works:** Online portal of transcripts and degree progression. [http://registrar.wvu.edu/dw](http://registrar.wvu.edu/dw)
Support Services

1. CEHS Office of Student Success (Advising):  https://cehs.wvu.edu/advising
2. WVU’s Office of Accessibility Services:  http://accessibilityservices.wvu.edu/
3. WVU’s Student Success Program through the Division of Student Affairs:
   http://retention.wvu.edu/student_success
4. WVU’s Student Support Services:  https://sss.wvu.edu/
5. The Eberly Writing Studio:  http://speakwrite.wvu.edu/writing-studio
6. Employment Services:  http://employmentservices.hr.wvu.edu/wvu_jobs
   a. Mountaineer Temps:  http://mountaineertemps.hr.wvu.edu/home
7. West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE):  http://wvde.state.wv.us/
   a. Certification:  http://wvde.state.wv.us/certification/forms/
   b. Employment:  http://wvde.state.wv.us/jobs/
   c. Policies/Standards:  http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/

Professional Memberships

International Literacy Association:  https://my.literacyworldwide.org/memb/join.aspx
West Virginia Reading Association:  http://www.wvreading.com