

**California State University, Long Beach**  
**Department of Teacher Education**

Greetings!

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the Reading Certificate, Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential, and/or Masters programs.

An information sheet pertaining to each of these programs is enclosed. Our three-phase program may be completed in its entirety or you may choose to complete the 1) Reading Certificate; 2) the Reading Certificate and the Reading/Language arts Specialist Credential; or 3) all three phases that culminate in the MA in Elementary or Secondary Education with an Option in Reading/Language Arts.

*The coursework for the Reading Certificate can be completed in two semesters and one summer if you have met all prerequisites. The 15-unit Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential program can be completed in another two semesters and summer session, depending on course availability. The MA degree (an additional 6-9 units) can be completed in the third year (total program: 2 -1/2 – 3 years). Please keep in mind that this is a program intended primarily for full-time teachers, so taking more than 6 units per semester is discouraged, unless you are planning to be a full-time student.*

Also included with this letter is an application for admission to the program. The deadline for receiving applications for any of the programs is **May 15** for the fall semester. Because this is a cohort program, students are not formally admitted for the spring semester; however, up to 6 units (generally EDRG 540 and/or ENGL 481/482 or EDRG 520) may be taken prior to admission. Courses may be applied to the program.

You will also need to apply to the University by **May 15** (a separate application process). Complete your Graduate/Post-Baccalaureate on-line application at [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu).

*Once I have received your program application (included with this letter), you will be contacted about an interview/orientation with program faculty. After the interview and if you have been accepted by the University, you will receive a letter notifying you of acceptance to the respective graduate program in reading. At this point, you may register for classes.*

We appreciate your interest in our graduate reading programs and look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Leikam Theurer, Associate Professor  
Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Reading

**California State University, Long Beach**  
*Department of Teacher Education*

**Reading Certificate, Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential, and M.A. in  
Education, Specialization in Reading and Language Arts**

**Application Deadline: May 15<sup>th</sup> for Fall Admission**

*The Reading Certificate, Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential, and the Masters of Arts in Education (option in Reading/Language Arts) provide advanced preparation in reading/language arts assessment and instruction, clinical and field experience, as well as theory and research in teaching reading and language arts, grades K-12.*

**Prerequisites for all programs:**

- A basic elementary or secondary teaching credential; CLAD certification is strongly recommended
- ENGL 481 or ENGL 482 or EDRG 520 or current equivalent course in children's or adolescent literature
- A minimum grade point average of 3.0 in the last 60 semester (90 quarter) units
- Two letters of recommendation from educators familiar with your teaching
- Autobiography and personal statement of intent (3 pages maximum)
- Interview with program faculty

**The Reading Certificate program (15 units)**

Intended for elementary and secondary teachers who desire advanced preparation in reading/language arts curriculum, assessment, instruction, and intervention. The focus is on designing and implementing appropriate reading/language arts programs for all children and youth, including English language learners.

**Requirements:**

- EDRG 540 Advanced Studies in Literacy (3)
- EDRG 551 Assessment and Instruction in Reading and Writing (3)
- EDRG 558 Language Study for Reading Teachers (3)
- EDRG 559 Practicum in Teaching Reading/Language Arts (3)

***Additional requirement prior to completion of the Reading Certificate:***

Verification of **three years of full-time teaching experience** in any grades, preschool through adult, exclusive of student teaching, internship teaching, or teaching while holding an emergency credential or permit. This verification must be received prior to completion of the Reading Certificate program.

## **The Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential program (30 units)**

Intended for experienced elementary and secondary teachers who wish to assume literacy leadership positions at the school or district level. The positions may include any or all of the following: literacy diagnostician, reading intervention specialist, professional development provider, reading program coordinator, and/or evaluator of school and district literacy programs. The reading specialist is also prepared to provide expert reading/language instruction at the classroom level.

### **Prerequisites for the Reading Specialist Credential program:**

- Successful completion of the Reading Certificate program or equivalent

### **Requirements:**

- EDRG 543 Technology in Reading/Language Arts (3)
- EDRG 544 Foundations of Literacy Research (3)
- EDRG 554 Reading/Language Arts: Supervision and Leadership (3)
- EDRG 556 Theoretical Models and Processes of Reading (3)
- EDRG 651 Advanced Diagnosis and Intervention in Reading/Language Arts (3)

## **M.A. in Education: Elementary or Secondary Education, Option in Reading/Language Arts (36-39 units)**

### **Prerequisites for the M.A. in Education, Option in Reading and Language Arts Program:**

- All of the requirements for the Reading Certificate and Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential

### **Requirements:**

- ED P 595 Qualitative Research Methods (3)
  
- EDRG 695 Seminar in Teacher Education (3) and Written Comprehensive Examination  
OR
- EDRG 698 Thesis (6)

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**For information and assistance, please contact Dr. Joan Leikam Theurer, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Graduate Studies in Reading, 562-985-2096, or email: [jtheurer@csulb.edu](mailto:jtheurer@csulb.edu).**

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES:** Consideration for admission to the program requires two simultaneous processes: application to the Graduate Reading Program and application to the university. Please note that acceptance to the university does not guarantee admission to the program.

The deadline for application to the program is **May 15**. The program only accepts candidates for the fall semester. Both the program application and university application must be received by these deadlines. Late or incomplete applications may jeopardize admission to the program.

**Program Application:** The following materials are required in order to apply to the program:

1. A completed application form.
2. Two (2) letters of recommendation on letter-head stationery from educators who know your work (at least one of the letters **MUST** be from a supervisor or principal).
3. A personal teaching autobiography, including what reading means to you; what you've learned about children and reading; why you wish to enter the graduate reading program(s) (3 pages maximum).
4. A copy of your current Multiple or Single Subject teaching credential.
5. Official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended.
6. Verification of 3 years of full-time teaching (due before completion of first 12 units in program).

Program applications should be submitted as a complete set, containing items 1-6 listed above, and may be delivered in person or sent by postal mail to:

Office of Graduate Studies and Research  
College of Education ED1-Room 7  
California State University, Long Beach  
1250 Bellflower Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90840-2201

**University Application:** Applicants must simultaneously file a "Graduate/Post Baccalaureate Admission Application" with the University Office of Admissions, along with one complete set of official transcripts from all high education institutions attended. *Please note that this set of transcripts is in addition to the set of official transcripts required for the program application.* The transcripts must be submitted to Enrollment Services/Admissions, Brotman Hall 123, CSU Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90840-0106.

The university application must be accompanied by the \$55 non-refundable application fee. Applicants must apply online using CSUMentor.

- To apply online, go to <http://www.csumentor.edu/> and select "Apply online."
- Follow the instructions to create an account and complete the graduate application online.
- Be sure to select the correct term and then click on the box "Select a Campus and Major."
- Select "Long Beach Campus," then click "Set Campus."
- The intended major box will appear. If you are applying to the Master's and credential program be sure to select EDUC Reading/Language Arts MA from the pull down menu. If you are applying to the Reading/Language Arts Specialist Credential select Credential from the pull down menu and in the box where it asks for the name of the credential select Reading Language Arts Specialist. If you are only applying to the Reading Certificate select Cert: Tch Read Lang from the pull down menu.
- Click "submit" when the application is complete.
- Remember to print a copy of the application confirmation number and application. Be sure to follow up by sending an official set of transcripts for all institutions attended to Enrollment Services.

Please direct questions regarding the online application process to the College of Education Graduate Office (562-985-8476).

**ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM:** Once the Graduate Studies office has processed the application, the program faculty will review complete application files, make decisions on admissions based on program needs and inform applicants of their admission status. The admission process takes approximately six weeks from the relevant deadline. Please note that applications are not reviewed on a rolling continuous basis. Applicants will receive notice regarding admission to the program through a formal letter. The university will send notification separately. Please note that admission to the program is required, in addition to admission to the university. Before the semester begins, accepted students will also be invited to a New Student Orientation.

California State University, Long Beach

**PROGRAM APPLICATION**  
**READING CERTIFICATE,**  
**READING/LANGUAGE ARTS SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL,**  
**MASTERS IN EDUCATION, SPECIALIZATION IN READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS**  
Application Deadline May 15 for Fall Admission

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnic Identity (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ SS/ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Option:  Reading Certificate/Specialist Only  MA, Elementary Option  
 MA, Secondary Option

Undergraduate School: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credential School: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Credential Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Credential and Authorizations: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Teaching Subject(s) : \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Years of Teaching Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied to the University (Y or N): \_\_\_\_\_ Date applied: \_\_\_\_\_

Terminal Objective: \_\_\_ Certificate \_\_\_ Specialist Credential \_\_\_ MA in Education

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have previously completed the Reading Certificate Program at another University indicate which institution and when you completed the program. Please note that 24 semester units must be taken in residence at CSULB.

I completed the Reading Certificate Program at \_\_\_\_\_

Date Completed \_\_\_\_\_