READING EDUCATION MASTER’S DEGREE PROGRAM

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Department of Teacher Education and Educational Leadership (TEEL) is to prepare students to become Empowered Professionals Making a Difference. Programs are designed to provide students with Knowledge, opportunities to take Action, and Leadership skills in order to produce graduates who are Decision Makers, Problem Solvers, Critical Thinkers, Lifelong Learners, Counselor/Mentors, and Ethical Moral Professionals.

Content
1.1 Continuously analyze reading instructional programs based on approved standards using students’ performance to design instruction. (FEAPS 1a, 3j)
1.2 Analyze and apply current reading methods and instructional practices essential to the subject area. (FEAPS 1a, 1b, 1c, 2g)
1.3 Interpret, analyze, and evaluate professional research to identify relevant evidence-based practices to increase students’ reading achievement. (FEAPS 1c, 2g, 3b)
1.4 Monitor and report the success of all students in the learning environment, evaluate performance, and use a variety of benchmarks, learning expectations, and feedback measures to ensure accountability for all participants engaged in the educational process. (FEAPS 1d, 1e, 2c, 2h, 3i, 4b)

Critical Thinking
2.1 Contrast and compare current literature related to problem solving and critical thinking and design reading instruction that will enable students to improve their creative thinking abilities. (FEAPS 5b, 5e)
2.2 Analyze and apply assessment data from multiple sources to determine learning needs, identify instructional changes, and monitor student progress. (FEAPS 4a, 4c, 4d)
2.3 Plan effective learning experiences employing critical thinking, problem solving, and high-order questioning techniques, and collect and analyze data for continuous improvement in the area of reading. (FEAPS 1f, 3f, 5a, 5d)

Communication
3.1 Produce accurate and effective written and oral communications integrating innovative technologies. (FEAPS 2e, 2g)
3.2 Support student learning and continuous improvement in the area of reading through the reporting of student assessment data to student and parent/caregiver. (FEAPS 4e, 5c)

Integrity/Values
4.1 Analyze ethical behavior in educational settings using Florida Department of Education's Code of Ethics and Principles of Professional Conduct for the Education Profession. (FEAPS 6a)
4.2 Act with integrity, fairness, and honesty in an ethical manner identifying statutory grounds and procedures for disciplinary action, the penalties that can be imposed by the Educational Practices Commission, and the appeals process available to the individual. (FEAPS 6a, 6b)
4.3 Develop self-reflection practices regarding research based performance and feedback to demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement in effective goal setting. (FEAPS 5d)

Project Management
5.1 Select and use relevant emergent instructional technology to manage, evaluate and improve reading instruction. (FEAPS 2g, 2i, 4f)
5.2 Apply knowledge of rights, legal responsibilities, and procedures for reporting abusive incidences while maintaining and protecting students’ records through ethical use of technologies. (FEAPs 6c, 6d, 6e)
5.3 Design and deliver effective reading instruction through engaging and challenging lessons based on students’ learning needs and cultural backgrounds. (FEAPS 3a, 3c, 3e, 3g, 3h)
5.4 Organize, allocate, and manage the resources of time, space, and attention supervising individual and class behaviors through a well-planned management system. (FEAPs 2a, 2b)

Diversity Skills
6.1 Create educational climates that foster openness, inquiry and concern for others. (FEAPS 2c, 2d, 2f, 2h)
6.2 Demonstrate student advocacy by seeking information about students’ culture, home environments and backgrounds. (FEAPS 2d, 2h, 3e, 3h)
6.3 Collaborate with home, school, and larger communities to design reading instruction meeting the needs of students and acknowledging preconceptions and misconceptions. (FEAPS 2h, 3d, 3h, 5c)

Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes

From the beginning of their studies, master’s degree students develop content knowledge, engage in critical thinking activities, communicate with their classmates and professors both orally and in writing, engage in self-reflection, enhance their professional behaviors, learn to manage increasingly complex projects, and refine their interactions related to diverse populations. The knowledge, skills, and dispositions that they develop culminate in the action research capstone experience. Thus, this experience becomes the primary assessment tool in identifying success with the Student Learning Outcomes. Students work individually or in small groups to identify an education problem; research that problem in the current literature; design a study; collect and analyze data related to the design; and then report the findings. The experience is considered successful if the student is able to produce a project acceptable to his faculty mentor who is teaching the action research course.
Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) are based on the legislatively mandated Florida Department of Education 2010 Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPS) and the Professional Education Unit’s Conceptual Framework. The FEAPS are grouped into UWF’s domains and are broken into the smaller Student Learning Outcomes seen in the Academic Learning Compacts and the Academic Learning Plans. The SLOs are integrated into individual course activities, “critical tasks”, and are assessed through common rubrics. Progress on the SLOs, FEAPS, and Conceptual Framework Outcomes are monitored through Tk20 Comprehensive Assessment and Reporting System. Collective data are used to track individual student’s achievement of the SLOs, FEAPs, and Conceptual Framework Outcomes. Student data are checked at two points in the candidate’s program, benchmark and mastery of a particular outcome. These data are aggregated and used in programmatic continuous improvement to affect policy, initial broad curricular changes as needed, and to modify individual course activities and assessments.

**Job Prospects for Graduates with the M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction**

Florida, the 4th largest school system in the nation, is comprised of over 4,000 public schools situated in 67 public school districts. With a current annual enrollment of almost three million students, Florida continues to have a tremendous need for highly qualified teachers, including a critical need in specific areas. The Reading Education M.Ed. qualifies graduates for state certification in reading, one of the critical shortage areas. This certification is transferable to most areas of the country because of reciprocal agreements between Florida and other states.

The M.Ed. in Reading is designed to enhance the professional skills and knowledge of educators as well as help them move into specialized areas of leadership within the schools and district level positions. This includes positions as reading teachers, reading coaches, district level literacy specialists, and intervention specialists. This degree also prepares graduates for work in the private and non-profit sectors in positions such as consultants in the publishing industry, reading tutors, and program coordinators.

**Find out more about M.Ed. in Reading Education at UWF:**