

# St. Bonaventure University School of Education

## CHILDHOOD LITERACY AND ADOLESCENT LITERACY PROGRAMS



The School of Education and all of our programs are nationally accredited

### ***Hallmarks of the MSED Literacy programs:***

1. Coursework and field experiences prepare teacher-candidates for future roles as reading teachers, literacy specialists, reading/literacy coaches, and curriculum coordinators.
2. Candidates spent 60+ hours in the field as Literacy Coaching Interns, guided by mentor teachers.
3. Candidates also spend 50+ hours assessing and teaching children and teens in the SBU Reading Center.
4. Childhood Literacy candidates can be initially certified in early childhood or childhood education.
5. Adolescent Literacy candidates can hold any middle- or secondary-level initial certification.
6. Candidates can pursue either master's degree on a full-time basis on both the Main Campus and at the Buffalo Center, and complete it in one calendar year.
7. Candidates can pursue either master's degree on a half-time basis on both the Main Campus and at the Buffalo Center, and complete it in two calendar years.
8. On the Main Campus, candidates can also take one course per semester and complete the master's degree in four calendar years.
9. Expectations are rigorous and standards are high: A 3.0 undergraduate GPA is required for recommendation for certification.

### ***What makes us different?***

- Every course has an anchor project designed to ensure that candidates gain the necessary knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to meet the International Literacy Association's (2010) Standards for Reading Professionals at the reading specialist/literacy coach level.
- In the context of the Literacy Coaching Internship, candidates gain hands-on experience with school-wide assessment, data team meetings, Response to Intervention, and instructional coaching.
- In the context of the clinical practicum, candidates gain hands-on experiences completing diagnostic literacy evaluation and assessment, planning for highly individualized instruction based on clients' strengths and needs, communicating and teaming with clients' parents/caregivers, and engaging in peer observation and formative feedback.
- Candidates in the Childhood Literacy program who wish to extend their Literacy certifications through grade 12 can coordinate with the program director ensure they gain the requisite experiences.

### ***What makes our grads great educators? They become....***

- Leaders in their school and district literacy programs.
- Effective teachers of literacy in various contexts: general education, special education, Title I programs, and Response to Intervention programs.
- Capable and effective reading/literacy specialists and coaches who work collaboratively with colleagues to build on students' strengths and meet their needs.

### **Quick Facts:**

- This is a 30-credit MSED degree.
- We offer a program for students who want to earn their NYS certification as a Literacy Teacher Birth-6 or 5-12.

## Frequently Asked Questions... MSED in Literacy at St. Bonaventure University

What kind of roles does a Literacy master's degree prepare teachers for?

Our alumni work as classroom teachers, special education teachers, reading teachers, Title I teachers, Academic Intervention Services teachers, reading/literacy specialists, reading/literacy coaches, curriculum coordinators, curriculum writers, literacy

Do I have to take any NYS teacher examinations to complete this program?

To gain NYS Literacy Teacher certification, candidates must complete the degree program and pass Content Specialty Test 65: Literacy. Across the past 5 years, our alumnus have had a 98% pass rate on that examination.

I would like to gain Literacy certification through grade 12. Can I do that at SBU?

**YES – in a roundabout way.** SBU does not currently offer a Literacy Birth-grade 12 program. However, Childhood Literacy candidates who would like to work at the middle or secondary school levels should consult with the program director. Depending on field experiences and the grade levels of the clients taught during the practicum, BOCES can recommend candidates for grades 5-12 extensions on their Literacy certificates.

Is it hard to complete a master's degree in one year? That seems like a lot!

**Full time graduate study requires the same commitment as a full time job**, so if you are planning to teach or work at some other job on a full-time basis, you should consider part-time enrollment options. However, the majority of our candidates do matriculate full-time; by making graduate school their top priority, they are able to complete within one year and hit the job market running.

I would like to gain Early Childhood certification. Can I do that through

**YES!** Candidates who hold initial certification in Childhood education grades 1-6, complete the Childhood Literacy degree program, and gain Literacy B-6 certification can take the Early Childhood CST then apply through BOCES and qualify for Early Childhood Birth-grade 2.

Can middle and secondary teachers extend their certifications downward through the MSED Literacy program?

**Unfortunately, no.** Upon completion of the MSED Adolescent Literacy program, candidates will be recommended for NYS certification as Literacy Teachers grades 5-12.

For more information, contact Dr. Karen M. Wieland, Program Director  
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