Graduate Programs in Language and Literacy in Education

Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in the graduate programs in Reading and Language Education at Sonoma State University.

In this packet you will find:

- Application Procedures
- Program Descriptions:
  - Language and Literacy Masters Degree
  - Reading and Literacy Added Authorization
- Course Descriptions
- Program Application Form
- Fieldwork Background Sheet
- Professional Goals Statement Guide
Vision Statement

Advancing social justice in schools and communities through excellence in education.

Mission Statement

The School of Education provides transformative educational experiences through teaching, research, and key initiatives. We prepare undergraduates, graduate students and credential candidates to advocate for social justice in their learning and throughout their careers so that students, schools, and communities flourish.

Core Values

1. We believe that examining and respecting human differences is central to educational inclusivity.
2. We believe that collaboration and community partnerships strengthen our work.
3. We take a critical and reflective stance in light of educational and social inequities.
4. We are committed to equity and access in education for all students.
5. We promote meaningful learning through theoretically sound and research-based pedagogies.
Graduate Programs in Language and Literacy Education

The School of Education offers two programs in Language and Literacy – an M.A. degree and one program leading to state licensure:

1. Master of Arts in Education with a concentration in Language and Literacy
2. Reading and Literacy Added Authorization (RLAA)

Note: The Reading and Literacy Leadership Specialist Credential (RLLSC) is on hiatus until further notice.

All required courses for the RLAA may be applied to the MA degree.

Application Procedures

You must apply separately to the University and to the School of Education.

University applications must be submitted online via https://www2.calstate.edu/apply. Acceptance into a graduate program in Education is dependent on acceptance to the University.

Program applications are available from the Credentials office by calling 707-664-2832 or www.sonoma.edu/education. You may apply on the same form to one program or a combination of the three programs listed above.

Please submit the following materials to the Credentials Office in the School of Education:

1. A completed program application form.
2. Official transcripts from each college or university you have attended. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution required for admission.
   For the MA, submit one set of transcripts.
   For the RLAA submit one set of transcripts.
   (Grade point average requirements: cumulative upper division/graduate 3.0; Education 3.0)
   (Please note: transcripts you submit will not be shared between the Credentials Office and Admissions and Records. Be sure to submit separate copies to each office. Also note, Admissions and Records also requires official transcripts).
3. If applying for an Added Authorization provide a copy of your valid California teaching credential. (Required for RLAA programs at the time of application) If applying for the MA program only no teaching credential is required.
4. Two recent and official letters of reference (no more than 12 months old) that address your qualifications as a professional educator and the likelihood of your success in advanced academic coursework.
   o Letters can be added to program application or mailed directly to:
     Credentials Office
     School of Education
     Sonoma State University
     1801 E. Cotati Ave.
     Rohnert Park, CA 94928
   o Letters may also be submitted (as attachments) to credentials.office@sonoma.edu or Cal State Apply (these letters are accepted from person writing reference)
5. A completed Fieldwork Background sheet documenting the range of your experiences in teaching reading. (See attached.)
6. A Professional Goals Statement that includes a reflection on your teaching experiences and your vision of how graduate study will contribute to your professional goals. Your response will be evaluated on the organization and clarity of your ideas and the appropriate use of written English language conventions. (See attached.)

7. **Verification of teaching experience.**

8. Documentation of University Admission or Application.

9. It is recommended that you make an appointment with the Reading Program Advisor during the application process.

**NOTE:** At the time of completion of the RLAA (but not the M.A.), you must provide verification of three years successful, full-time teaching experience in any grade or subject, preschool through adults (Verification may be provided by a letter or other appropriate documentation by the candidate’s employer. Acceptable experience does not include student teaching, internship teaching, or teaching while holding an emergency permit. This experience may also be gained outside of California.). You may enter these licensure programs with less experience, but you must completed three years by the time you submit your application to the state. Submission of teaching experience is required within 7 years of course completion.

Reading program advisor Dr. Rhianna Casesa, email casesa@sonoma.edu
Sonoma State University – School of Education
Graduate Programs in Language and Literacy Education

PROGRAM APPLICATION

_____ Reading and Literacy Added Authorization (RLAA) 15 units
_____ M.A. in Education: Reading/Language Education 30-36 units
(check all that apply)

Semester Applying for: Fall ____ Spring ____ Date of Application: ________________

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________________

*Social Security Number ___________________ *Date of Birth ____________ Gender: _____ Male _____ Female

Address ________________________________________________________________________________________________

City     State   Zip

Home telephone ___________________________ Cell __________________________________

E-mail ______________________________________________________________________________

Teaching Position _______________________________ Employer ________________________________

School Name _________________________________________________________________________

School Address _______________________________________________________________________________________

City     State   Zip

School telephone ___________________________ Fax ________________________________

E-mail ______________________________________________________________________________

*This information must be provided

Ethnic Identity – Indicate the group(s) with which you mostly identify

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<tr>
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<th>American Indian/Alaskan Native</th>
<th></th>
<th>Laotian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Central American</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Laotian</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Decline to State</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Please complete all of the following items

Are you currently enrolled at SSU? □ Yes □ No

If yes, Date admitted

Have you ever previously applied for admission or ever been admitted to a credential or M.A. program at Sonoma State University? □ Yes □ No

If yes, which program(s)?

Semester and year admitted

Semester and year completed

How did you hear about the Reading program? 

List all colleges and universities attended, dates of attendance, credential(s) and degree(s) awarded

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________

Student Signature               Date
Graduate Programs in Language and Literacy

Fieldwork Background

Name ______________________________ Date ____________________

School __________________________ Position / Grade ____________________

Program fieldwork will build on your past teaching experiences.
Please mark an “X” in the cell which represents the kinds of students you already have taught in the following contexts. Then briefly describe your experiences with each group of readers.

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<th>Classroom Instruction</th>
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<td>Beginning Readers</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Language Learners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Struggling Readers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proficient Readers &amp; Writers</td>
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Beginning Readers

English Language Learners

Struggling Readers

Proficient Readers / Writers

Additional information about your experience in teaching reading and language arts

Sonoma State University
In order for you to document your current views and professional perspectives, please respond in 2-3 typed pages to the following items as part of your program application. Statement must be included with your application packet.

All applicants
How does advanced study in language and literacy fit into your professional and career path? How do you expect to use the knowledge and leadership skills that you gain?

Select two among the following prompts.

- What issues and topics do you wish to study regarding the learning and teaching of reading, writing and the other language arts? Why?
- What instructional and evaluation practices seem promising to you for today’s multilingual and multicultural classrooms? Why?
- How do students currently influence your classroom practice? How would graduate study of literacy research and theory advance your teaching and better meet your students’ needs?
- What questions do you have about developing a successful language arts program at your level of teaching in today’s multilingual and multicultural classrooms?
- What questions do you have about students who struggle with reading and writing in English in school?