

**University of St. Francis
M.S. Reading Specialist Program
Course Descriptions**

MSED 610 METHODS OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (3-4) - provides students with the knowledge and skills to manage, interpret, and analyze research data. Students will also evaluate qualitative and quantitative educational research and explore the planning and conducting of action research in reading or teaching or educational administration.

MSED 641 SURVEY OF READING FUNDAMENTALS (3) - focuses on the history of reading instruction, theoretical models of reading, research-based methodology in reading, and the scope and sequence of a K-12 reading program.

MSED 642 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES AND DIAGNOSIS OF READING DISABILITIES (4) - focuses on assessing the reading abilities of students. Primary emphasis includes: analysis of various assessment tools, definitions of reading disability, and aligning assessment to instruction.

MSED 643 DIAGNOSTIC TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND MATERIALS (4) - focuses on research-based, exemplary techniques and materials that will help all students learn to read. Topics include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, comprehension, and content area reading.

MSED 644 LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS (3) - introduces the candidate to a wide variety of literature available and prepares him/her to evaluate literature available for children. It requires extensive reading of books, practice in evaluating and selecting book's, consideration of related media and technology, and development of techniques for bringing children and resources together.

MSED 646 PRACTICUM IN CORRECTIVE READING (4) - provides students with the opportunity to apply principles of sound reading instruction. Students in this course use assessment data to develop an aligned instructional plan for a student so that maximum benefits of instruction result. Post testing will be used to measure both effectiveness of instruction and the reading growth of the child.

MSED 647 LITERACY AND DIVERSE LEARNERS (3) - addresses the literacy needs of diverse learners. Analysis of the school diversity - race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, gender, cognitive abilities and language – and its implications for literacy instruction will be examined.

MSED 648 METHODS OF TEACHING WRITING (3) - focuses on teaching writing in grades K-12. The central focus of the course is to examine how children learn the art of writing and how teachers can scaffold this learning.

MSED 649 COORDINATING THE K-12 READING PROGRAM (3) - prepares teachers to undertake the role of reading specialist. Curricular emphasis focuses on the necessary content and practical experiences needed to successfully coordinate a K-12 reading program.

MSED 689 READING AND WRITING IN CONTENT AREAS (3) - focuses on the development of the relationship between language arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening) and the specific content area disciplines. The process of effective classroom communication and instruction, as it pertains to increasing the reading and writing strategies of students, will be explored to enhance student learning while making reading and writing in the content area more culturally and developmentally appropriate and meaningful.