Reading Teacher Endorsement / Reading Specialist Endorsement / Reading Specialist Certification

The following document provides an overview of the requirements needed to obtain a Reading Teacher Endorsement, Reading Specialist Endorsement, and Reading Specialist Certification. Please read carefully as there are distinct differences between the three. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss these programs, please contact Dr. Marla Mallette (phone: 453-4252 or email: mallette@siu.edu).

FAQs

1. **What are the differences among the Reading Teacher Endorsement, Reading Specialist Endorsement, and Reading Specialist Certification?**

   Both the Reading Teacher Endorsement and the Reading Specialist Endorsement are just that – endorsements. That is, they are added to the certificate you currently possess. Therefore, you are only highly qualified to teach reading at the grade levels for which you are certified to teach. Although both endorsements meet NCLB’s HQ requirements to teach reading in other than a self-contained classroom, only the Reading Specialist Endorsement qualifies you to provide technical assistance to other teachers and to provide professional development to teachers. The Reading Specialist Certification is a Type 10 (K-12) certification, which, according to NCLB’s HQ requirements, enables you to both teach reading in other than a self-contained classroom and provide technical assistance and professional development to other teachers in **grades K-12**.

2. **What if I have taken some of the required courses in my undergraduate program?**

   Courses taken as an undergraduate MIGHT count toward your endorsement and/or certification. However, they WILL NOT be counted toward your Master’s Degree.

3. **What if I already have a Master’s Degree in Reading? Am I eligible for an endorsement and/or certification?**

   Not automatically! You will need to bring in your transcripts to determine if you have met all the requirements. Both the endorsements and certification require specific coursework in particular areas.

4. **Which one of these will allow me to be a Title 1 Reading Teacher at my school?**

   The answer to that question depends of the role of the Title 1 Reading Teacher at your school as well as the grade levels included.

5. **Which one of these will allow me to be a Reading Coach?**

   Since the roles of a Reading Coach involve both working with students and providing technical assistance to other teachers, it is necessary to be a Reading Specialist. Whether this requires you to obtain an endorsement or certification is dependent upon your teaching certification and the grade levels with which you would be working.

Illinois State Board of Education
(http://www.isbe.net/certification/requirements/endorsement_assignment.htm)

May 2011
Reading Teacher Endorsement

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, “The Reading Teacher endorsement is the minimum requirement for anyone assigned to teach reading who is not teaching reading as part of general classroom instruction. Teachers who have the endorsement by June 30, 2006, or meet the endorsement requirements in place through June 30, 2006, are also qualified to provide technical assistance to other teachers and to provide professional development to teachers.”

Effective July 1, 2006, applicants must:
* Pass either the Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist Content Exam AND
* Complete at least 24 semester hours of coursework, including a practicum, through an approved reading teacher program and be recommended for the endorsement by the university OR
* Pass the Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist exam and complete 24 hours of credit in reading, including a practicum, distributed through areas described below.

The following provides an overview of the ISBE requirements for this endorsement along with the CI courses that meet those requirements.

(1) **Foundations of Reading** – 3-12 hours
CI 313 Early Literacy Methods (4) – offered fall and spring
CI 422 Teaching Reading in the Elementary School (3) – offered fall and spring
*CI 512 Reading in the Elementary School (3) – offered fall
*CI 513 Emergent Literacy (3) – offered summer
*CI 561 Reading and Learning from Content and Technical Text (3) – offered summer
*At least one of the above must be taken and needs to match current certification

(2) **Content-Area Reading** – 3-6 hours
CI 460 Teaching Reading and Writing in the Middle Grades (3) – offered spring
CI 561 Reading and Learning from Content and Technical Text (3) – offered fall and summer
*At least one of the above must be taken and needs to match current certification

(3) **Assessment and Diagnosis of Reading Problems**
(4) **Developmental and Remedial Reading Instruction and Support**
(5) **Developmental and Remedial Materials and Resources**
(7 hours)
CI 407F Diagnostic Teaching Strategies for Reading (3) – offered spring, fall, and summer
CI 521 Advanced Diagnostic Teaching of Reading (4) – offered summer
Instructor’s approval and recently taken (5 years) prerequisites needed in order to enroll: CI 407F plus one the following: CI 460, CI 513, CI 512, CI 561

(6) **Literature Appropriate to Students in all Grade Levels** – 3-9 hours
*CI 435 Children’s Literature (3) – offered fall and spring
*CI 498P Workshop in Children's Literature (3) – offered even summer
*CI 445 Literature for Young Adults (3) – offered as needed
*ENGL 481 Young Adult Literature in a Multicultural Society (3) – offered periodically
*At least one of the above must be taken and needs to match current certification

(7) **Practicum in Reading** – 3 hours
CI 594F Practicum in Reading (3) – offered fall and spring
Reading Specialist Endorsement

According to the Illinois State Board of Education, “The reading specialist endorsement is available to persons who: (a) complete an approved reading specialist program, (b) have a master's or higher degree, (c) pass the reading specialist content-area examination and (d) pass any other applicable examinations required for certification. This endorsement requires two years of teaching experience. It may be issued as an endorsement on an existing Early Childhood, Elementary, Special or Secondary certificate for service at the grade level of the certificate. Except as noted under the reading teacher requirements, the reading specialist is the only person authorized to teach reading and to provide technical assistance or professional development to teachers.”

Reading Specialist Endorsement Program Coursework

- **Foundations of Reading**
  *CI 512* Reading in the Elementary School (3) – offered fall
  *CI 513* Emergent Literacy (3) – offered summer
  *CI 561* Reading and Learning from Content and Technical Text (3) – offered summer
  *At least one of the above must be taken and needs to match current certification*

- **Reading Across the Curriculum / Middle Grades**
  CI 460  Teaching Reading and Writing in the Middle Grades (3) – offered spring
  CI 561  Reading and Learning from Content and Technical Text (3) – offered summer
  *At least one of the above must be taken and needs to match current certification*

- **Assessment and Diagnosis of Reading Problems**

- **Developmental and Remedial Reading Instruction, Support, and Materials**
  CI 407F  Diagnostic Teaching Strategies for Reading (3) – offered fall, spring, and summer
  CI 521  Advanced Diagnostic Teaching of Reading (4) – offered summer

- **English Language Learners**
  CI 585F  Teaching Reading to English Language Learners (3) – offered spring

- **Research in Reading**
  CI 535  Reading and Language Studies Research Seminar (3) – offered spring

- **Children’s and Young Adult Literature**
  *CI 435* Children's Literature (3) – offered fall and spring
  *CI 498P* Workshop in Children's Literature (3) – offered even summer
  *CI 445* Literature for Young Adults (3) – offered as needed
  * ENGL 481* Young Adult Literature in a Multicultural Society (3) – offered periodically
  *At least one of the above must be taken and needs to match current certification*

- **Professional Development / Leadership**
  CI 501  Improving School Reading Programs (3) offered fall
  CI 508  Observation and Analysis of Classroom Instruction – offered summer and fall

- **Practica**
  CI 594F  Practicum – Reading/Instruction (3) – offered fall and spring
  CI 594F  Practicum – Reading/Leadership (3) – offered spring
Reading Specialist Certification

The Reading Specialist certification program at SIUC is a 43-semester hour advanced level program leading to a Type 10 Reading Specialist Certificate as well as a Master of Science in Education (MSEd) degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a major in Reading and Language Studies (RLS). In order for candidates to be eligible to enter the Reading Specialist Certification program, they must have attained the following: (a) passage of the Illinois Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), (b) a Bachelor’s degree with a grade point average of 3.0 or above out of 4.0 (or evidence of preliminary graduate work at a 3.0 gpa); (c) a teaching certificate in early childhood, elementary, secondary, or special education; (d) a minimum of two years of classroom teaching prior to enrolling in CI 535: Reading and Language Arts Research Seminar; and (e) two letters of recommendation from education professionals.

If candidates already have earned a Master of Science in Education degree with a major in Reading and Language Studies (RLS) prior to their entry into the Reading Specialist Program, they need only to have completed the basic requirements listed in the following section and, with additional graduate coursework beyond the requirements attained in their Master’s program, they may complete the program’s coursework requirements.

Reading Specialist Certification Program Coursework

Prerequisite Literacy Courses (12 semester hours)
CI 407F Diagnostic Teaching Strategies for Reading (3) – offered fall, spring, and summer
CI 435 Children’s Literature (3) – offered fall and spring
CI 445 Literature for Young Adults (3) – offered as needed OR
ENGL 481 Young Adult Literature in a Multicultural Society (3) – offered periodically
CI 460 Teaching Reading and Writing in the Middle Grades (3) – offered spring

Literacy Core Courses (22 semester hours)
CI 512 Reading in the Elementary School (3) – offered fall
CI 513 Emergent Literacy (3) – offered summer
CI 561 Reading and Learning from Content and Technical Text (3) – offered summer
CI 521 Advanced Diagnostic Teaching of Reading (4) – offered summer
CI 535 Reading and Language Arts Research Seminar (3) – offered spring
CI 585F Teaching Reading to English Language Learners (3) – offered spring
CI 594F Practicum – Reading/Instruction (3) – offered fall and spring

Professional Development Coursework (9 semester hours)
CI 501 Improving School Reading Programs (3) offered fall
CI 508 Observation and Analysis of Classroom Instruction – offered summer and fall
CI 594F Practicum – Reading/Leadership (3) – offered spring

Exit From Program Requirements

- Completion and presentation of Research Project
- Candidates must give evidence of passing scores on the Illinois Reading Specialist Content Exam and the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) prior to program completion.
- Completion and presentation of their Literacy Program Portfolio as well as activities, assignments, and examinations in these courses, field experiences, and a final documentation of dispositions through a written self-reflection.