

M.Ed. in Literacy Studies Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Kassie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GVSU's Master of Education in Literacy Studies Reading and Language Arts emphasis graduate program. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The Master of Education in Literacy Studies offers 4 routes. The first two routes prepare students to earn an Elementary or Secondary Reading Endorsement and focuses on classroom literacy instruction. The second route prepares students to become K-12 Reading Specialists. In this program, students not only learn about literacy instruction, but also literacy coaching and the facilitation of professional development. The K-12 Reading Specialist program is 36 credit hours, while the Elementary and Secondary Reading programs are 33 credit hours programs. Finally, the fourth route in the Masters of Education in Literacy Studies is a general Literacy Studies program with no endorsement. In this program you have the freedom to build your own program to meet your professional needs around literacy. This is a 33 credit hour program.

Coursework across all 4 programs involve deepening teachers' professional knowledge in literacy through active learning and site-based experiences, typically in teachers' own classrooms. Students will complete two or three field experiences, usually in their own classroom if they are currently teaching. Those who are not currently teaching in a classroom will seek opportunities to work with students in a school setting.

We anticipate that there will be a teacher shortage over the course of the next ten years and that there will be a particular need for teachers, especially those with reading endorsements. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, teachers with these endorsements can expect employment to grow approximately 7% by 2024.

Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts from your degree conferring institution, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Individuals interested in the Master of Education in Literacy Studies will also need to include one letter of recommendation with their application. More details as well as the online application can be found on the Literacy Studies website within the College of Education website at www.gvsu.edu/acad/education-literacy-studies-med.htm.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate program in Literacy Studies is that it is a fully online program, so students across the state and beyond can fully participate and learn. Additionally, Grand Valley's graduate program tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at

www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The Master of Education in Literacy Studies has earned National Recognition through the International Literacy Association. Graduates have become teacher leaders in school districts across Michigan and beyond, implementing effective literacy practices in their own classrooms and guiding other teachers in meeting the needs of their students. The program provides a balanced approach grounded in research-based classroom practices and immerses candidates in a rich learning environment that informs their own instruction. This means teachers can quickly apply what they are learning in their graduate program to their own classroom instruction.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Education in Literacy Studies graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to Dr. Elizabeth Stolle at stollee@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.