



University of Utah
Department of Educational Psychology

READING & LITERACY PROGRAM

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Olene Walker Scholarship 2021

The Olene Walker Scholarship application is now open! These scholarships for Utah teachers reduce the cost of six of the core M.Ed reading courses to \$300/course, approximately one-half of the regular rate. This can save you \$1800!

The application for these scholarships is available on the EDPS RL MEd webpage. Please read through the details and return completed applications to Dr. Lauren Aimonette Liang (lauren.liang@utah.edu) by Monday, April 12.

Scholarship Information

Current Olene Walker Scholarship Recipients

Are you a current Olene Walker Scholarship recipient? Email JoLynn Yates at (jo.yates@utah.edu) by Monday, April 12 if you will be taking Foundations of Literacy in Summer 2021. Failure to meet this deadline may result in the inability to use your scholarship for summer coursework.

Graduation Spotlight



Graduation Updates

The University of Utah Commencement is on May 6, 2021 at 6:30 pm. This will be a live-streamed event. Watch the following website and your university email for more information in the coming weeks.

<https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/graduategraduation.php>

College of Education Convocation is May 6, 2021 at 4:00-5:00 pm. This is an in-person, ticketed event at Red Butte Garden. It will also be live-streamed. Watch the following website and your university email for more information in the coming weeks.

<https://education.utah.edu/students/convocation.php>

Applying for a Level 1, Level 2 Advanced, or Level 2 Interventionist Reading Endorsement?

Application for the reading endorsements is done directly through the Utah State Board of Education. Please visit their [website](#) for applications. Note that you will need a transcript, and the Level 1 Reading Endorsement does require passing the Praxis Exam #5206

★ For all graduation related information, visit the main U of U graduation website:

<https://registrar.utah.edu/graduation/>

Summer 2021 M.Ed./Endorsement Courses

First Session (May 18 - June 25) - Reading & Literacy M.Ed Course:

EDPS 6711 Foundations of Literacy

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:35-7:05 pm; IVC (via Zoom and Canvas)

Instructor: Dr. Colli Lucas

M.Ed. students and K-12 educators should register for Section 030 through AOCE (\$600)

Summer One-Week Elective Course - Open to All (M.Ed Elective Course):

EDPS 6331 International Children's and Adolescent Literature:
Focus on Latin American Children's Literature

June 7-11 (Monday - Friday) 8:00 am - 4:00 pm; IVC (via Zoom and Canvas)

Instructor: Dr. Lauren Aimonette Liang

M.Ed. students and K-12 educators should register for Section 015 through AOCE (\$600)

Summer 2021 Course Information

Thinking Ahead to Fall 2021 - EDPS Course Offerings

EDPS 6712 Reading Research is scheduled for Fall 2021. Elective courses are also available. Watch the U of U Course Schedule for Fall 2021 to find details about dates and times or these evening classes.

M.Ed. Comprehensive Exams: Reading and Literacy AND Elementary Education

If you are planning to take comprehensive exams in Fall 2021, please email Dr. Lauren Aimonette Liang (lauren.liang@utah.edu) by June 1st. Comprehensive exam dates for Fall 2021 will be in mid-October.

Wilson Training at the UURC:

Upcoming Deadlines & Reminders from Michele Blake

The Wilson Reading System (WRS) Level I Certification is a fabulous opportunity for clinical training in working with children who have word level deficits in the areas of decoding and spelling. WRS has proven to be effective with severely dyslexic students as well as mildly disabled readers with a language-based learning disability. Wilson Reading System, an Orton Guillingham derivative, is a Tier III reading intervention.

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USBE Changes Reading Endorsements

USBE will continue to offer the current Reading Endorsement Level 1, Reading Endorsement Level 2 Advanced, and Reading Endorsement Level 2 Interventionist only until **July 2023**.

Beginning **July 2021**, USBE will start to offer a new Secondary Literacy Interventionist Endorsement and a new K-12 Literacy Specialist Endorsement. Detailed requirements for these endorsements are not finalized at this time.

- These new endorsements are part of the the new "[Competency-Based Endorsement](#)" System
- Drafts of these new endorsements, including their purposes and requirement details, can be found here:
 - [K-12 Literacy Specialist and Associate K-12 Literacy Specialist](#)
 - [Secondary Literacy Interventionist and Associate Secondary Literacy Interventionist](#)

How Do These Changes Affect Current Students in the RL M.Ed Program seeking the Reading Level 1, Level 2 Advanced, and Level 2 Interventionist Endorsements?

All current M.Ed students (admitted prior to May 1) will be able to complete their coursework forms as approved by the program director during December 2020/January 2021.

This means that all current students will be able to complete the coursework for their desired Reading Endorsement Level 1, Reading Endorsement Level 2 Advanced, or Reading Endorsement Level 2 Interventionist courses by June 2023.

- Students who change from their recently approved coursework plan may not be able to complete their coursework at the U of U and may need to seek out an alternative. Contact Dr. Liang if you have questions.

What about the New Proposed Literacy Endorsements?

The Reading and Literacy Program will continue to offer our outstanding M.Ed degree that provides a strong background in literacy theory and instruction for all educators.

Beginning in 2021-2022, we anticipate that students entering the RL M.Ed program will be able to also complete some or all of the coursework requirements for the new endorsements within their program.

- We will announce details for this by Fall 2021 when USBE has finalized the endorsement requirements and begun the review process for university coursework approval.

Additionally, the M.Ed program will include concentration options in

- Reading Intervention
- Secondary Literacy
- Research and Leadership