

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION LANGUAGE & LITERACY PROGRAM

PROGRAM VISION

We believe that strong literacy skills—reading, writing, speaking, and listening—are necessities for all people, and that all people can learn literacy skills. Thus, we choose to adopt a structured and explicit approach to teaching literacy skills, while taking into account the developmental continuum on which students learn. Our graduate students recognize how access to services and equity issues play a critical role in reading achievement.

PROGRAM MISSION

To support the development of reading specialists and teachers to implement evidence-based practices in school settings, and to prepare and influence responsible, socially just literacy leaders who will transform the world of pre-k-adult.

The program has a long history of educating reading specialists, teachers, literacy leaders and scholars who learn to teach students using explicit and systematic instruction across all components of reading. The program aims to serve diverse students with a range of literacy skills. In addition, we are dedicated to the teaching of multiliteracies in this rapidly changing educational environment.

We are dedicated to partnering with all educational stakeholders to advance important and current issues in the field of literacy. As such, we are committed to:

- screening, assessment, and instruction
- Educating reading specialists and teachers who are adequately prepared to meet the needs of students with heterogeneous profiles including those with specific learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia and dysgraphia), children who speak languages other than English at school entry, those with social and demographic risk factors, and those with developmental disabilities
- Engaging in scholarship that investigates research-based practices in reading and writing in authentic classroom settings with diverse subgroups of students
- Partnering with all educational stakeholders and community partners to ensure equitable access to effective, evidence-based diagnostic services and instruction
- And awareness of and connection to the resources that can support children and families.