



University of Utah  
Department of Educational Psychology

# READING & LITERACY PROGRAM

Fall 2021 Newsletter

## New Director Information and Contact Info

The new director for the Reading & Literacy program is Dr. Claire Son. Her research focuses on early reading development and reading engagement among at-risk young children. If you have any program-related inquiries, she can be reached at [reading-literacy@utah.edu](mailto:reading-literacy@utah.edu).

Reading and Literacy Program

### Course Information for Spring 2022

#### Spring M.Ed Courses

For Spring 2022, EDPS is offering the following Reading & Literacy M.Ed courses:

##### EDPS 6631-030

Tuesdays 4:00-8:00 pm and Thursdays 4:00- 5:15 pm; IVC (via Zoom & Canvas)  
Instructor: Dr. Christy Austin

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

##### EDPS 6725-001, 002, 003 Comprehensive Review and Exam (need to register for all three sections for three credit hours)

Instructional times will be set by the instructor  
Instructor: Dr. Claire Son  
3 credits, includes weekly meetings to review content

##### M.Ed. Comprehensive Exams:

If you are planning to take comprehensive exams in Spring 2022, register for ED PS 6725 and please email Dr. Claire Son ([reading-literacy@utah.edu](mailto:reading-literacy@utah.edu)) by December 13th.

Comprehensive exam dates for Spring 2022 will be Friday, March 4 - Monday March 24.

### Preview of Summer Courses

First Session:

ED PS 6714 Comprehension Theory & Instruction  
ED PS R&L Elective ED PS 6331 International Children's and Adolescent Literature: Focus on Asian Countries (@ June 13 -17)

Second Session:

ED PS 6711 Foundations of Literacy  
ED PS 6126 Content Area Literacy\* (Special One to Two Week Session)

ED PS R&L Elective: ED PS 6715 Instructional Leadership of Literacy Programs  
ED PS R&L Elective: ED PS 6716 Reading Specialist Internship

More information about these classes will be sent to you in Spring 2022

Reading and Literacy Program

### Course Information for Summer 2022

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### Olene Walker Scholarships 2022

#### Olene Walker Scholarships 2022

The Olene Walker Scholarship application will be open in spring! These scholarships for Utah teachers reduce the cost of the core M.Ed reading courses to \$300 each, approximately one-half of the regular rate. The application for these scholarships is available on the EDPS RL MEd webpage. Please read through the details and return completed applications to [reading-literacy@utah.edu](mailto:reading-literacy@utah.edu) by Monday April 11, 2022.

#### Current Olene Walker Scholarship Recipients

Are you a current Olene Walker Scholarship recipient? Email Jolynn Yates at [jo.yates@utah.edu](mailto:jo.yates@utah.edu) by Monday December 13, 2021 if you will be taking 6631 Assessment and Intervention in Spring 2022. Failure to meet this deadline may result in the inability to use your scholarship for spring coursework.

## USBE Changes Reading Endorsements

#### Retiring Endorsement:

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

(June 30, 2023 is the last day to submit applications for the current reading endorsement that is being retired.)

#### New Endorsement:

Beginning this year, USBE is offering a new Secondary Literacy Interventionist Endorsement and a new K-12 Literacy Specialist Endorsement. Beginning in 2021-2022, RL M.Ed program will be able to complete all of the coursework requirements for the new secondary literacy interventionist endorsements. University of Utah R&L Program is currently the one and only higher education institute that is approved by USBE to offer courses for the new secondary literacy endorsement.

Apart from the endorsement, R&L program will continue to offer our outstanding, research-oriented M.Ed degree that provides a strong background in literacy theory and instruction for all educators.

Information on the new secondary literacy endorsement, including purposes and requirement details, can be found here:

These new endorsements are part of the new "Competency-Based Endorsement" system  
<https://www.schools.utah.gov/licensing/endorsements?mid=5266&tid=0>

Secondary Literacy Interventionist:  
<https://www.schools.utah.gov/file/e582d2fc-3a47-4025-9cfd-e0afe0acc95>

## Impact for Current Students

How Do These Changes Affect Current Students in the 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) are need to have their coursework forms checked and approved by the program director during December 2021/January 2022.
- This means that, if your coursework form is approved, you 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 before June 2023.
- Students who change from their recently approved coursework plan may not be able to complete the coursework at the U of U and may need to seek out an alternative. Contact Dr. Son if you have questions.
- The website for the M.Ed. Reading and Literacy program is currently being updated to reflect all the program and endorsement changes.

## Online Recruitment Event

R&L faculty will be hosting three online recruitment events to share information about the Reading and Literacy programs, admission process, and endorsements. Please share the news with your colleagues and other prospective students.

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 @ 5:00

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 @5:00

Wednesday, March 2, 2022 @ 5:00

Zoom information for all three sessions:

<https://utah-health.zoom.us/j/99661027976?pwd=UEVGZ0NsVDZUQVBNCiErZzRueDZjZz09>

Meeting ID: 996 6102 7976

Passcode: 893723



Alumni Interview

Dr. Naomi Watkins

Utah State Board of Education

#### What did you enjoy most about the program?

I enjoyed the work and personal relationships I developed with faculty and my peers. I still keep in touch with many of them.

#### What did you learn most from the program?

I became a more thoughtful and skilled researcher, writer, and thinker.

#### How did the program change/help your career goals?

While in the program, my career goals were to work as a tenure-track faculty member at a Tier 1 research university. I'm not sure the program changed that goal; the job market and the realities of academia did. I actually wish there had been more career development conversations in the program beyond the Academy. I hope this has changed.

#### Helpful tips to share with prospective students?

I've had quite the winding career trajectory since finishing my PhD--worked on the tenure track at a university for a few years, left academia, returned to the schools, worked for a non-profit, published a children's book and co-hosted a podcast, finished training as a yoga teacher and breathwork facilitator. My advice would be to remain open to possibilities; a PhD is training for so many skills that open doors to lots of opportunities.



Dr. Christy Austin in collaboration with Drs. Kerry Herman, Chris Bischke, and Nicole Pilling, recently received a teaching grant to create modules to supplement the Reading Methods I course. The modules will be prepared by people with expertise in teaching reading to students who are blind or have visual impairments, or to students who are Deaf or hard of hearing. These modules are expected to support preservice teachers in developing the knowledge required to provide equitable reading instruction to students with sensory impairments, who often struggle to receive evidence-based reading instruction.

#### Faculty News

New teaching grant for  
**Dr. Christy Austin**

to help provide equitable reading instruction

