

## Literacy, Language, and Culture: Literacy Education



Children and literacy graduate student Stacy Sawyer during the summer literacy practicum.

### USM's Literacy, Language, and Culture (LLC)

**Program** is committed to promoting 21st century literacy, multilingualism, and multiculturalism locally and globally.

Literacy programs are ideal for professionals who are interested in literacy education, including:

- Classroom Teachers
- Educational Technicians
- Adult Educators
- School Administrators
- International Teachers

### DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

<b>Certificate of Graduate Study in Literacy (12 credits)</b>	<b>Master of Science in Education: Literacy Education (36 credits)</b>	<b>Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study in Literacy Education (30 credits)</b>
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### CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

- Literacy Education certificates and degrees are based on the International Literacy Association's Professional Standards for Reading Professionals, which emphasize:
  - foundational knowledge
  - curriculum and instruction
  - assessment and evaluation
  - diversity
  - literate environment
  - professional learning and leadership
- The **M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education** is a state-approved program leading to Maine's literacy specialist license (092) for certified educators with two years' teaching experience. Graduates consistently exceed required passing scores on the Praxis Subject Assessment.
- The **post-master's CAS in Literacy Education** meets individual student needs with a totally self-designed program that may, in close consultation with a faculty advisor, lead to Maine's literacy specialist license (092) in only 30 credit hours.
- The **Literacy Education practicum (EDU 639)** provides graduate students hands-on opportunities to apply their literacy learning and leadership skills while addressing "summer slide" by tutoring local children.

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- No GRE is required for admission.
- Programs may be completed in less than two years.
- Courses are offered on campus in Gorham and Portland, as well as **online and in blended formats**.
- Students learn alongside expert faculty, including full-time professors and outstanding practitioners who are accessible and committed to each student's success.
- Graduates have applied their learning in their classrooms as K-12 teacher leaders or pursued new roles as literacy specialists, literacy coaches, Title I Directors, and literacy interventionists.

## PROGRAM OPTIONS

### Master of Science in Education in Literacy Education

Through this program, students:

- receive a sound theoretical and empirical knowledge base related to literacy acquisition
- become informed decision makers capable of designing and implementing appropriate instruction in reading and writing at all levels
- become effective advocates for improving literacy instruction at their schools

**This degree does not lead to initial teacher certification.** The program is primarily intended for classroom teachers, literacy teachers, and other experienced educators interested in the field of literacy.

Students who complete the program are eligible for Maine certification as a literacy specialist, provided they meet state requirements for successful classroom teaching experience and pass the Praxis Subject Assessment.

### Post-Master's Certificate of Advanced Study (CAS) in Literacy Education

Designed to meet the needs of certified classroom teachers, administrators, and other educators who want to pursue advanced graduate study in literacy education and related areas. Students with appropriate background may earn Maine certification as a literacy specialist through the CAS program.

**Master's degree required for admission.**

### Certificate of Graduate Study in Literacy Education (CGS)

This certificate is offered to classroom and special education teachers, educational technicians, and other holders of baccalaureate degrees who wish to begin acquiring a basic background in literacy without undertaking a full master's degree program. The sequence of courses focuses on how students acquire literacy and how they evolve as literacy users. Holders of the certificate will be able to plan effective literacy instruction for their students. Credits earned from this certificate program may be transferable to a degree program.

**The certificate does not lead to state certification.**



Expert instruction and practical experience are key components to the literacy programs

For more information:

**Literacy, Language and Culture Programs**

**(207) 780-5968**

**michael.katz@maine.edu**

**8 Bailey Hall, USM Gorham Campus**

**[usm.maine.edu/literacy-education](http://usm.maine.edu/literacy-education)**

For assistance with the application process:

**Office of Admissions**

**(207) 780-4386**

**[usmgrad@maine.edu](mailto:usmgrad@maine.edu)**

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR M.S.ED.:

**Minimum requirements:** Applicants must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants who do not have a 2.5 overall GPA must enclose a letter asking for special consideration, in which they provide evidence of an ability to complete graduate studies successfully. Without such a letter, applicants who fail to meet eligibility requirements may be automatically denied.

**The applicant must also have attained teacher certification (provisional or professional level).**

Exceptions to this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are up to the discretion of the admitting program.

### APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE:

- A submitted online graduate admission application.
- The application fee of \$65.00. The application fee is free for in-state Maine residents.
- Official transcripts from all colleges or universities attended, excluding the seven campuses of the University of Maine system. A transcript is official when it comes directly from the institution. If an applicant is submitting an official transcript, it must be in a sealed envelope from the institution indicating that it is an official document. If the envelope has been opened prior to arriving at the Office of Graduate Admissions, it is no longer considered an official transcript.
- Three letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's knowledge of current scholarship, capacity to connect theory and practice in posing and solving educational problems, achievement of excellence in educational practice, and demonstrated capability and motivation to engage in advanced graduate study. Recommendations are submitted using our online application form.
- Essay: See essay question at our [usm.maine.edu/literacy-education](http://usm.maine.edu/literacy-education)
- Completed and signed Teacher Credential Summary Form.
- Certification of finances (international students only).
- Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language).
- Current resume.

Application requirements for the CGS in Literacy and CAS in Literacy Education may be found at <http://usm.maine.edu/literacy-education>