



# SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

## **Reading Certificate Program:** **Developing Expertise for Teaching Reading at the Community College Level**

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San Diego State University's Graduate Reading Certificate Program provides educators with an extremely valuable and strong combination of both theoretical knowledge of the processes of reading and writing as well as specific expertise for best practices in comprehensive assessment and instructional strategies. The Certificate Program at SDSU is taught by a nationally recognized, distinguished faculty with current, intensive professional expertise. The SDSU Reading Certificate Program emphasizes supervised clinical and field experiences at the SDSU community-based Literacy Center. All classes for the program are focused on literacy acquisition for diverse learners from emergent through adolescent and adult stages. The knowledge base for the reading/language arts graduate programs reflects a comprehensive, balanced approach to literacy development, and a developmental perspective on literacy acquisition and growth. It includes knowledge about reading and writing across content areas; the role of writing in learning; the role of literature in the classroom; student motivation and engagement through reading, writing, and discussion; and direct instruction in specific skills and strategies. Graduates receiving the Reading Certificate, Reading Specialist Credential, or Master's degree in reading are expected to reflect the current knowledge base in their own work and attitudes toward learners. Students regularly reflect on their professional advancement toward clearly defined competencies/exit behaviors throughout a series of courses, clinical work, and field experiences distributed across four strands: 1) curriculum/instruction; 2) assessment; 3) research; and 4) leadership.

The Reading Certificate Program consists of 4 courses (13 units), as described below. California also requires documentation of three years of teaching experience in order to be eligible to receive the Certificate. This experience may be accrued prior to, during, or after enrollment in graduate studies. Community College instructors may wish to complete the required coursework without applying for the Certificate itself.

### **TE 639 (3 units) Literacy and Language**

Theories of literacy and methods for developing literacy in language, reading, and writing. Instructional methods and assessment techniques for children and adults, including English language learners.

**TE 635\* (3 units) Introduction to Assessment of Reading/Language Arts**

(Prerequisite: Valid teaching credential; consent of instructor; and a course in methods and materials for teaching reading). Introduction to formal and informal assessment of students' strengths and weaknesses in literacy development. Involves literacy assessment of actual student clients and reporting results to parents. Course held at the SDSU Literacy Center, 4283 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite 200, San Diego, CA. 92105.

**TE 636\* (3 units) Advanced Assessment of Reading/Language Arts**

(Prerequisite: Valid teaching credential; consent of instructor; and TE 635 or equivalent). Advanced formal and informal assessment of students' strengths and weaknesses in literacy development. Involves literacy assessment of actual student clients and reporting results to parents. Course held at the SDSU Literacy Center, 4283 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite 200, San Diego, CA. 92105.

**TE 637\* (4 units) Instructional Strategies for Reading/Language**

Supervised experience utilizing instructional strategies in individual and small group settings. Course held at the SDSU Literacy Center.

Information and an application form for the SDSU Reading Certificate Program can be downloaded at <http://edweb.sdsu.edu/STE/mastersreadinginfo.htm>. Candidates will need to apply to the CSU Graduate Division online and submit official transcripts, but do not need to submit GRE scores. Candidates will also need to submit the department application along with letters of recommendation either by mail or email attachment to:

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