



**For Massachusetts Teachers Only**

**Teacher of Reading (All Levels)**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Page one of two

**1) I teach outside of Massachusetts and hold a teaching license from a state other than Massachusetts, can I enroll in this program?**

No. This degree is for Massachusetts teachers only. Please see the M.Ed. Reading and Language non-licensure degree at <http://www.uml.edu/catalog/graduate/colleges/education/docs/MEd-reading-non-lice.pdf>

**2) Is the program completely online, or do I need to visit the campus?**

Candidates are asked to come to campus when they are enrolled in Practicum I and Practicum II. On-Campus meetings are limited in number. You will also be visited in your school by a UML supervisor.

**3) What is the format of a course?**

To view the format of a course, go to <http://continuinged.uml.edu/online/tutorial/testdrive.htm> This provides a comprehensive review of a typical online course.

**4) Do I need to be a certified teacher to enter this program?**

Candidates who seek to enroll in this degree program should hold a Massachusetts initial or professional teaching license for *Early Childhood, Elementary, English, Moderate Special Needs or Teacher of English Language Learners*.

**5) I am currently licensed and teaching in Massachusetts. Is this program approved for licensure in Massachusetts?**

Candidates who hold a current initial or professional Massachusetts license in *Early Childhood, Elementary, English, Moderate Special Needs or Teacher of English Language Learners* and complete all coursework, including the practicum in a Massachusetts school, are eligible for Massachusetts licensure as a Teacher of Reading (All levels).

**6) Is this program approved for professional licensure for Massachusetts teachers?**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved the University of Massachusetts Lowell's Masters of Education Degree in Reading and Language as meeting Professional Licensure Standards for *Early Childhood, Elementary, Moderate Special Needs and Teacher of English Language Learner* licenses in Massachusetts.

**7) How long does it take to complete the degree requirements?**

The program takes approximately 2 - 3 years to complete on a part-time basis, taking one or two courses per semester, fall, spring and summer. Candidates have a maximum of five years to complete the degree. The final, full year practicum is ordinarily completed in your current school-setting.

**8) What is the cost of taking an online, three credit course? Is financial aid available?**

Massachusetts residents and out-of-state residents pay the same fee. Financial aid maybe available to matriculated students enrolled in 6 or more credits per semester. You may contact the Financial Assistance Office at 978-934-4220 for more information. Please see the continuing education website for current pricing.

### [9\) How do I register?](#)

New students must register by completing the form found at [http://continuinged.uml.edu/pdf/registration\\_form.pdf](http://continuinged.uml.edu/pdf/registration_form.pdf) and fax, mail or deliver it in person to the Registrar's office. Returning students register using the ISIS self-service system. Complete registration information is available online at <http://continuinged.uml.edu/general/registration.htm>

### [10\) When is the application deadline?](#)

We admit students for each semester, fall, spring, and summer. However, in order to be admitted for a particular semester, your materials should be received at least six weeks before that semester begins in order to allow for processing and for the Admissions Committee to act on your application. (see the GSE website-Admissions)

### [11\) What is the application process?](#)

Applications can be found online at: <http://www.uml.edu/grad>. Please note that the Graduate School of Education requires results from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to accompany the application packet. Also required for the application are three letters of recommendation, transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended, and a one to two page statement of purpose.

### [12\) How many credits can I transfer from another institution?](#)

A total of 6 credits may be transferred into the program; however, this decision is made by a faculty committee only after you have been admitted to the program. Once you have been admitted, you may submit an academic petition to request transfer of credits from another accredited institution. You must fill out an academic petition and send a copy of the course syllabus or catalog description along with the official transcripts showing grade earned in the course. Courses taken as part of another degree program are not eligible for transfer. Courses not taken as part of another degree program must have been taken within five years to be eligible for transfer. The academic petition and the appropriate documentation should be sent to the Graduate School of Education, 61 Wilder Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor O'Leary Library, Lowell, MA 01854.

### [13\) Can I take classes before applying officially to the program?](#)

Students may take up to 2 classes (6 credits) prior to submitting a formal application for the program, but are **strongly advised** to first contact the Program Director, Dr. Vera Ossen ([vera\\_ossen@uml.edu](mailto:vera_ossen@uml.edu)). Non-matriculated students run the risk of taking inappropriate courses or courses out-of-sequence which may hinder their progress through the degree.

### [14\) Will I have an advisor?](#)

Yes, your advisor will be assigned once you are admitted to the program. Prior to admission you should contact Dr. Ossen ( [vera\\_ossen@uml.edu](mailto:vera_ossen@uml.edu) ).

### [15\) Are all courses offered every semester?](#)

No, this is why it is important to contact your advisor prior to registering for a course  
Please see the program of study sheet found at [http://www.uml.edu/gse/Programs\\_of\\_Study/Masters/Masters.html](http://www.uml.edu/gse/Programs_of_Study/Masters/Masters.html) and the course sequence at <http://www.uml.edu/gse/Courses/SCHEDULE-SEQUENCES.pdf>

### [16\) Do I have to complete a practicum?](#)

We consider performance in the field to be an essential part of the program. All candidates for the M.Ed. in Reading and Language complete two practicum experiences in their own school setting. Complete details and requirements will be provided by program faculty. (see question 2)

### [17\) What courses will be offered in the coming semesters?](#)

You can find our course schedule online at: [http://www.uml.edu/gse/Course\\_Schedule.html](http://www.uml.edu/gse/Course_Schedule.html)