

Hello. I'm Dr. Vi Alexander, professor and reading education coordinator and graduate adviser in the Department of Elementary Education. Thank you for your interest in our advanced Reading programs.

Information regarding the Master Reading Teacher (MRT) and Professional Reading Specialist Certification programs can be found on our web pages at <http://www.education.sfasu.edu/ele/areas/Graduate.html> and <http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu/>. Please click on the Master Reading Teacher and/or Reading Specialist Certification program pages. Here you will find the Master of Education: Professional Reading Specialist degree plan outlining required and optional courses. Please complete the top portion of the degree plan, leaving no blanks unfilled, and submit to Dr. Vi Alexander via fax 936 468-1701 or mail to Stephen F. Austin State University, Department of Elementary Education, P.O. Box 13017, Nacogdoches, TX 75962.

You will need to apply and be admitted to the SFA graduate school. To be admitted to our advanced reading programs, you submit a minimum GRE (<http://www.sfasu.edu/ccs/testing/GRE.asp>) score of 750 (combined verbal and quantitative). If you do not have a GRE score of at least 750, you will be admitted on a provisional status for one semester only. There is a GPA requirement as well (see Graduate Bulletin). You must submit to Dr. Alexander official graduate school transcripts relative to previously taken graduate courses.

You will also need to complete (do not leave any items blank, especially the specific name of your teaching certificate) the top portion of the degree plan found at our web site (<http://www.education.sfasu.edu/ele/areas/Graduate.html>).

You can either drop the degree plan and transcript by the Elementary Education office or mail to Dr. Vi Alexander, SFASU, P.O. Box 13017, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. You are also welcome to fax the degree plan to 936 468-1701 to Dr. Alexander's attention.

On at least three occasions, you must visit the SFA campus. You must take a capstone examination during the semester you are enrolled in RDG 504. The second visit will be during the semester you enroll in RDG 534 Phase II. These exams cannot be mailed to a proctor, since they are state secure tests. They must be taken on campus during the scheduled testing date. As soon as the testing director sets the dates, they will be posted. Then, in your last semester, you will need to take the Graduate Comprehensive Examination on the SFA campus. Additional information is posted in our Reading Specialist web pages (see above) and in the SFA Graduate Bulletin.

When you receive admission status from the graduate school and are ready to register, please email me and give me your social security number or SFA campus identification number. Include the semester and courses that you'd like to take. We will release the advising hold and permit you in the course. You will, then, need to register for the class(s).

The first four Reading courses in the sequence begin in the summer. RDG 501 and RDG 502 are offered in SSI, and RDG 503 and RDG 504 are offered in SSII. You can begin

the program in the fall and spring, however. If you choose to begin the program in the fall semester, you will register for RDG 508. If you choose to begin in the spring semester, you will register for RDG 574. If you want to take more than 3 graduate credit hours in the semester in which you take RDG 508 or RDG 574, you can choose from your "Option Courses" from the degree plan. If you are a certified teacher, you are not eligible to take the courses in Option IV of the degree plan. Keep in mind that RDG 501, RDG 502, RDG 503, and RDG 504 are prerequisites for RDG 534 Phase I and RDG 534 Phase II, course practicums.

In the semester in which you take RDG 502, you will be asked to complete and submit the Application for Admission to Educator Program Additional or Advanced Certificate. This form is located on our SFA web page at <http://www.sfasu.edu/education/departments/elementary/docs/TED-ApplicationAdditional-Advanced.pdf>.

A graduate student is required to apply for admission to candidacy upon the completion of twelve (12) semester hours of graduate work at SFA. The Admission to Candidacy form can be found on our SFA web page at <http://www.sfasu.edu/education/departments/elementary/docs/admissiontocandidacy.pdf>.

Candidates are advised each semester prior to registration. When you are ready to register, please contact Dr. Alexander at valexander@sfasu.edu. Provide your campus ID number and courses that you want to take. Dr. Alexander will submit a permit to unblock your registration. You will then go through the registration process.

The SFA Graduate Bulletin contains all policies and procedures related to students seeking a graduate degree. MRT and Reading Specialist candidates are responsible to know and understand the policies and procedures outlined in the Graduate Bulletin. You can access the Graduate Bulletin at this link: <http://www.sfasu.edu/bulletin/docs/graduate/2006-2008/gbulletin.pdf>

Again, thank you for considering SFA and our Reading programs. Please let me know how I can serve you. I can be contacted at valexander@sfasu.edu.

Best regards,
Dr. Vi Alexander