

Thank you for your interest in pursuing a Master's in Elementary Education with a Reading Specialist Professional Certification degree at SFASU.

Step One: Apply to the SFA Graduate School through ApplyTexas. Please be sure to check Elementary Education, then Reading Specialist so it gets routed to our department! Once your file is complete with the Graduate School, it will be routed to the Elementary Education department with a Notice of Admission (NOA).

Step 2: The Reading Specialist program coordinator will contact you with program admission status and additional paperwork to fill out. This is a process and may take some time, so please allow at least a month prior to the start of the semester.

You will be taking eight courses in Reading, with the remaining four courses in Early Childhood (ECH), Middle Level Grades (MLG), and/or Elementary Education (ELE). You may choose which four courses to take, depending on availability during the semester you need electives. This will bring your total hours to 36 credit hours. With taking two courses each semester and each summer session, you can complete this degree within one and a half years.

While a normal course load at the undergraduate level is 12 hours (4 courses), a normal load at the graduate level is 9 hours (3 courses). If you are wishing to one day teach at the Junior College, you need 18 hours in a content area to teach. You will have 24 hours in Reading. If you want to teach at the University level, you will want to pursue your Doctorate degree and continue your studies further in the area of Reading. Most doctoral programs are 72 hours, including dissertation hours.

This certification is recognized nationally and is aligned to Texas Reading Specialist Standards and the International Literacy Association (ILA) Standards 2010. Your coursework provides training in the instruction, diagnosis, and remediation, of reading difficulties, as well as training in literacy coaching and how to be a literacy leader on your campus. If you have any questions, please ask!

~ Dr. Welsh, Graduate Reading Specialist Coordinator, welshka@sfasu.edu ~