Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a reading specialist in Virginia?

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) requires a masters degree and 30 hours in an approved program of studies. The 30 hours may be taken as a masters degree. The VDOE also requires that when you apply for the reading specialist endorsement, you will have completed three years of successful teaching during which time the teaching of reading was a major responsibility.

What is the University of Virginia's approved program?

The VDOE and the University's accreditation agency approved our program of studies as a 36 hour program: the 30 minimum credit hour MEd plus 6 hours of clinical practice courses.

How many courses are in the masters degree?

The masters degree contains 10 courses (30 hours). There are two additional practicum courses (supervised clinical teaching and diagnosis) that must be taken in addition if you wish to add Virginia's K12 reading specialist endorsement to your teaching license.

How do I apply for the masters degree?

You must submit an online application, at least two letters of recommendation, a complete transcript, a current statement of professional goals, and at least one of the options listed below.

Prospective students may be admitted by submitting GRE scores or by using one of the alternative procedures described below:

Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores should meet Curry's targets for admission—450/150 verbal, 530/145 math, 4.0 writing.

Alternative Procedure (new for Spring 2016 admission)

- Submit evidence of National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.
- Take two of the degree’s required courses as a non-degree student, passing both with a B or better, and submit your application with a writing sample that will be scored via rubric for writing expectations.
Is the reading MEd online?

Yes...the 30-hour academic coursework is available online. You may take this degree from almost anywhere although we suggest checking your state’s reciprocal arrangements with Virginia. This information is on the Online Admissions website.

The two clinical practice courses are NOT available through distance ed.

What are campuses on the application form?

We have three campuses for our degree. One is Charlottesville, if you wish to study at the Curry School, either full or part-time. Another is Off-Grounds with specification of place of study: Northern Virginia, Richmond, Hampton Roads, for part-time study. And the newest campus is ONLINE, also for part-time study.

What about an advisor?

When you are admitted, you will be assigned an advisor, based on your campus.

Can I bring courses in from another school?

If you elect alternative admission, your six transfer hours are the courses taken pre-admission. If you apply with the GRE, it is possible to apply up to 6 graduate credits toward a degree; transfer courses must be approved as appropriate substitution courses by your advisor after acceptance. Transfer courses may not have been used for another degree program. All other University of Virginia course work must be earned after admission to the degree program. All coursework must be no older than five years at degree completion.

I’m a foreign student. What do I need to know?

TOEFL or IELTS scores (required only for international students) must be no more than two years old. Expected scores include paper-based TOEFL (600), computer-based TOEFL (250), IELTS (7.0), IBT TOEFL (at least 22 in writing, 22 in speaking, 23 in reading, and 23 in listening, for a total of 90).

Do I have to enroll in the masters degree to get an endorsement through UVA?

If you already hold a masters degree in an educational field and have a valid teaching license, you can apply to the reading specialist certificate program at UVA.

Is the Reading Specialist certificate the same as the MEd?

It is a 30-hour program containing the courses prescribed by the state for endorsement. This certificate includes the two clinical practice courses. It does not require and writing course or an elective. It is not a degree.
**How does the certificate program work?**

You apply the regular way using your masters degree credential. When you are admitted, you begin your course of study—30 hours (10 courses) that satisfy the state’s requirements. At the end of the program of studies, you may apply to the state to have the K12 endorsement added to your license.

**Is the certificate program available online?**

All but 2 of the courses are available online. The two clinical practice courses (supervised clinical teaching and diagnosis) must be taken at a site in the state (Charlottesville, Richmond, or Northern Virginia) during July. You would not apply for this program of studies using the online portal. It is not an online certificate, although all but two of the courses are online.

**Where do I find the application for the endorsement?**

Upon completion of the academic degree (30 credits) and clinical courses (6 credits) and after three years of successful teaching (during which time the teaching of reading is a major responsibility), OR after completion of the reading specialist certificate program of study, a graduate can apply for the state's K12 reading specialist endorsement to be added to his/her teaching license.

Once these requirements are satisfied, please email Associate Dean Catherine Brighton (cmb3s@virginia.edu), providing: (1) last 4 digits of your SSN, (2) birthdate, (3) your name as it appears on your license, and (4) your current address. The form will be completed and mailed to the applicant’s home address, so that an official transcript and payment can be sent to the VA Dept. of Education. An official transcript is available through the Office of the Registrar.

**What are the courses required for the masters degree?**

**Core Reading Courses (24-hours):**

EDIS 7700 Foundations of Reading Instruction  
EDIS 7710 Reading in the Content Areas  
EDIS 7720 Word Study: Language Structures and Phonics  
EDIS 5730 Diagnosis and Remediation 1: K-2  
EDIS 5740 Diagnosis and Remediation 2: 3-12  
EDIS 7730 CLINIC: Practicum in Reading Diagnosis  
EDIS 7740 CLINIC: Practicum in Remedial Reading  
EDIS 7751 Literacy, Leadership, and Coaching

**Cognates (9-hours):**

EDIS 7310 Children’s; **OR**  
EDIS 5410 Young Adult Literature
EDLF 5010 Child Learning and Development OR
EDLF 5011 Adolescent Development (or the equivalent)

EDIS 5435 Writing Across the Curriculum (or an equivalent course)

**Elective (3-hours):** Selected with advisor approval

**What is the completion requirement for the masters degree?**

Students complete the degree by taking the Reading for Virginia Educators: Reading Specialist (RVE) assessment exam. Please check the RVE website for dates of the test administration. The score report must be submitted WITH the graduation application. Note: it takes approximately 15 days for the score to be reported.

**What is the tuition?**

Off-Grounds and ONLINE tuition is $500 per credit hour in-state and $500 per credit hour out-of-state.

If you are a Virginia educator, you may qualify for reduced tuition rates. K12 educator rates (6 hours/each semester for 2015-16) are $318 per credit hour in-state; $619 per credit hour out-of-state.

http://curry.virginia.edu/forms/educator-tuition-app

**Tell me about the application process?**

All the information you will need about applying is on the Curry website. Please see that resource for step-by-step assistance in the process.

http://curry.virginia.edu/admissions

**How do I enroll in a class?**

If you are not yet in a program of studies, you will enroll as a professional learner. This means you are a non-degree student. You have to establish your identity in the enrollment system by completing a Permission-to-Enroll form (online), telling the admissions office who you are and what you intend to take. Within 24 hours, you receive the directions for enrolling.

http://curry.virginia.edu/admissions/professional-learner
If you are already admitted to a program, you will have advance opportunities to enroll in courses each semester. Information about dates is always published on the website and also sent to you in an email message.

**Is financial aid available?**

Degree-seeking students may apply for loans, federal work-study, and scholarships offered through the University's Office of Student Financial Services. See [http://www.virginia.edu/financialaid/](http://www.virginia.edu/financialaid/) for more information.

**How do I see what courses are offered?**

We keep a database of courses available each semester—you can search by the type of course or teaching site. [http://courses.curry.virginia.edu/classsearch/](http://courses.curry.virginia.edu/classsearch/)

**Are there application deadlines?**

Yes. The dates for application to off-Grounds and online programs are:

- Fall entry: June 1
- Spring entry: October 15
- Summer entry: February 1

**What if I have questions about my application status, e.g., how will I know whether I’ve been accepted?**

You will receive notification by mail and also in your SIS account. Check it often!

**Where do I find information on taking the GRE’s?**

For general information on the GRE, see [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) (test dates, testing centers, fees, and registration) To adequately prepare for the GRE, plan to study for a minimum of 1-1.5 hours, three times a week, for eight to 10 weeks. Many students find a study guide or preparation course to be helpful.

Ask ETS to send an official copy of your scores to the University of Virginia; the school code is 5820. And, as noted above, include a copy of your score report(s) along with your application.

**How do I access my transcript from UVA?**

*To get an unofficial transcript:* [http://www.virginia.edu/sis](http://www.virginia.edu/sis)

On the left side, under the SIS login, there will be a link that says “View Unofficial transcript”
To order an official transcript: [http://www.virginia.edu/registrar](http://www.virginia.edu/registrar)

On the bottom right, click “Get your transcript”

From here, there are options to order by mail or online. Remember to check that all final grades are posted to SIS **before** ordering your official transcript.

**What is the Reading for Virginia Educators assessment (RVE)?**

The RVE is required by the state of Virginia to become endorsed as a reading specialist. See the RVE website, [http://www.ets.org/praxis/va/](http://www.ets.org/praxis/va/) for information about the test, registration, and study guides.

**Further questions?**

If you have questions about the M.Ed. or the Reading Specialist certificate, please consult the website: [http://curry.virginia.edu/academics/offering/reading](http://curry.virginia.edu/academics/offering/reading)