

## **READING EDUCATION, M.Ed.**

### **Mission Statement**

*The mission of the School of Education is to provide appropriate programs for initial teacher certification as well as programs for the preparation of advanced level professional educators. The programs are designed to empower individuals to think, communicate, strategically plan, and to develop their cognitive and affective human potential in order to become exemplary educational leaders. The goal of “empowerment” supports the School’s structure, curricular design, and conceptual framework.*

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

The UWF School of Education graduate in Reading Education should be able to do the following:

#### **Content**

- 1.1 Design action research grounded in educational theory, collect data, analyze data, and use the information gathered from a variety of qualitative and quantitative sources to develop educational goals for students (FEAPS 1 & 7)
- 1.2 Explore the theoretical and practical literature base related to effective learning environments, and design and establish a classroom environment that is conducive to high achievement of students (FEAPS 3, 7 & 9)
- 1.3 Articulate and apply the content and practices central to the areas of specialization (FEAPS 2 & 8)

#### **Critical Thinking**

- 2.1 Explore the current literature related to problem solving and critical thinking, and design activities that will enable students to improve their creative thinking abilities (FEAPS 4 & 10)

#### **Communication**

- 3.1 Communicate research findings accurately and effectively through the written word in order to share research results so that others can replicate ideas and deliver high quality education (FEAPS 2 & 8)

## **Integrity/Values**

4.1 Engage in self-reflection regarding research-based performance and pursue opportunities for feedback to demonstrate commitment to continuous improvement in effective goal-setting (FEAPS 3 & 9)

4.2 Adhere to the Code of Ethics and Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession (FEAPS 6 & 11)

## **Project Management**

5.1 Use emergent instructional technology hardware and software to manage, evaluate, and improve instruction (FEAPS 1, 4 & 12)

5.2 Design and execute effective strategies taking into account students' learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and developmental levels (FEAPS 5 & 9)

## **Diversity Skills**

6.1 Create educational climates that foster openness, inquiry and concern for others (FEAPS 5, 9 & 10)

6.2 Act as a student advocate by seeking information about students' culture, home situations and backgrounds, and use the community to provide a variety of experiences (FEAPS 5, 10 & 11)

## **Assessment of Student Learning Outcomes**

From the beginning of their studies, master's degree students develop content knowledge, engage in critical thinking activities, communicate with their classmates and professors both orally and in writing, engage in self reflection, enhance their professional behaviors, learn to manage increasingly complex projects, and refine their interactions related to diverse populations. The knowledge, skills, and dispositions that they develop are demonstrated in a series of key assignments and experiences culminating in two capstone experiences: the action research project and the clinical practicum.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) are based on the legislatively-mandated and Florida Department of Education monitored Professional Level of the twelve Florida Educator Accomplished Practices (FEAPS) which include Assessment, Communication, Continuous Improvement, Critical Thinking, Diversity, Ethics, Human Development and Learning, Knowledge of Subject Matter, Learning Environments, Planning, Role of the Teacher, and Technology, ESOL Performance Standards, and the Professional Education Unit's Conceptual Framework. The FEAPS and ESOL Performance Standards are grouped into UWF's domains and are broken into the smaller Student Learning Outcomes seen in the Academic Learning Compacts and the Academic Learning Plans. The SLOs are integrated into individual course activities, "critical tasks", and are assessed through common rubrics. Progress on the SLOs, FEAPS, and Conceptual Framework Outcomes are monitored through Tk20 Comprehensive Assessment and Reporting System. Collective data are used to track individual student's achievement of the SLOs, FEAPs, and Conceptual Framework Outcomes. Student data are checked at two points in the candidate's program, benchmark and mastery of a particular outcome. These data are aggregated and used in programmatic continuous improvement to affect policy, initial broad curricular changes as needed, and to modify individual course activities and assessments.

## **Job Prospects for Graduates with the M.Ed. in Reading Education**

Florida, the 4<sup>th</sup> largest school system in the nation, is comprised of over 4,000 public schools situated in 67 public school districts. With a current annual enrollment of almost three million students, Florida continues to have a tremendous need for highly qualified teachers, including a critical need in specific areas. The Reading Education M.Ed. qualifies graduates for state certification in reading, one of the critical shortage areas. This certification is transferable to most areas of the country because of reciprocal agreements between Florida and other states.

The M.Ed. in Reading is designed to enhance the professional skills and knowledge of educators as well as help them move into specialized areas of leadership within the schools and district level positions. This includes positions as reading teachers, reading coaches, district level literacy specialists, and intervention specialists. This degree also prepares graduates for work in the private and non-profit sectors in positions such as consultants in the publishing industry, reading tutors, and program coordinators.

***Find out more about M.Ed. in Reading Education at UWF:***  
***[http://uwf.edu/education/graduate\\_reading.cfm](http://uwf.edu/education/graduate_reading.cfm)***