



# FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE PROGRAMS



## READING AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Reading and Language Development (RLD) Program was designed to provide classroom educators and remedial reading interventionists with the knowledge and skills necessary to translate the science of reading into artful practice.

The Program, Accredited by the International Dyslexia Association, prepares educators in current best practices, as supported by reading research, and responds to state and national policy initiatives. Course content and practicum experiences are arranged to support candidates' mastery of essential knowledge and skills required in order to successfully serve students' diverse reading and language arts needs in the general education setting – this includes meeting the needs of students in core, intervention, and remediation contexts. It is important to note that special consideration is given to serving the reading and language arts needs of students with Specific Learning Disabilities, including dyslexia.

Coursework is presented through a gradual release model, with faculty explaining, modeling, and guiding candidates in the acquisition of essential knowledge and skills before providing them with the opportunity to independently engage applied work with students. Candidates complete two supervised practicum experiences that address best practices in serving the specialized language and literacy needs of students in intervention contexts. Program candidates receive training in a variety of the principles and practices of Structured Literacy, and are introduced to a variety of research-based instructional practices, approaches, methods, and curriculum materials.

### PROGRAM OPTIONS

For individuals holding an active CT certification:

- 102 Certification: Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts
- MA in Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts with 102 Certification: Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts
- SYC in Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts with 102 Certification: Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts

For individuals not holding an active CT certification:

- MA in Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts
- SYC in Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts

### STRUCTURED LITERACY/ DYSLEXIA INTERVENTIONIST CERTIFICATION

Graduates of ALL program options are eligible to earn a Structured Literacy/Dyslexia Interventionist Certification with the Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI), a subsidiary of the International Dyslexia Association (IDA).

Certified Structured Literacy/Dyslexia Interventionists are professionals that provide targeted, intensive reading interventions that reflect the principles and practices of Structured Literacy, as reflected in IDA's Knowledge and Practice Standards (KPS) for Teachers of Reading, to individual and small groups of students who typically have the need for decoding-strand instruction (phonological awareness, phonics (including decoding and encoding), word reading automaticity and reading fluency. Students served include those with Specific Learning Disabilities- namely, dyslexia.

Candidates must pass the Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEERI), before applying for certification. For more information, visit: [www.effectivereading.org](http://www.effectivereading.org).

### 102 CERTIFICATION: REMEDIAL READING AND REMEDIAL LANGUAGE ARTS (Grades one to 12)

Candidates for this state-issued certification must meet the following requirements per Sec. 10-145d-482 of the state of Connecticut regulations of the state board of education:

- Hold or be eligible for a Connecticut certificate (the #102 certification may not be a candidate's initial certification)
- Complete 30 school months of successful classroom teaching experience (at least half time) prior to applying for the #102: Remedial Reading and Remedial Language Arts certification
- Complete a course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than 36 clock hours which include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children including handicapped, gifted, and talented children, and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for, and working effectively with special needs children in the regular classroom
- Earn a Passing Score on the CT Reading Specialist Examination



Fairfield University

Graduate School of Education  
and Allied Professions

## COURSE OF STUDY

### CERTIFICATION CORE: 102 CERTIFICATION: REMEDIAL READING AND REMEDIAL LANGUAGE ARTS CERTIFICATION (21 CREDITS)

- RLD/SE 486 Developmental Literacy I: Fundamentals of Reading and Language Development OR RLD/SE 487 Developmental Literacy II: Essentials of Vocabulary and Text Comprehension
- RLD/SE 488 Content Area Literacy Strategies
- RLD 583 Tests and Measurement in Reading and Language Arts Contexts
- RLD 584 Guided Reflective Practice in Tier I Reading and Language Arts Programming
- RLD 586 Diagnosis and Remediation of Reading and Language Arts Difficulties
- RLD 587 Practicum in Tier II Reading and Language Arts Intervention Practices
- RLD 588 Practicum in Tier III Reading and Language Arts Intervention Practices

### MASTER'S DEGREE (30 CREDITS)

- Certification Core (see above)
- RLD 585 Writing Components and Processes in the LA Program
- RLD/SL 530: Language and Reading Acquisition for ELLs and Students with Special Needs
- One Elective Selected Under Advisement

### SIXTH YEAR CERTIFICATE (36 CREDITS)

- Certification Core (see above)
- RLD 585 Writing Components and Processes in the LA Program
- RLD/SL 530 Language and Reading Acquisition for ELLs and Students with Special Needs
- RLD 594 Designing, Implementing, and Leading the School RLA Program
- Two Electives Selected Under Advisement

## GRADUATE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**Dr. Jule McCombes-Tolis**

Phone: 203-254-4000, ext. 2286

E-mail: [jmccombes-tolis@fairfield.edu](mailto:jmccombes-tolis@fairfield.edu)

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### LICENSURE ITERATIONS AND MASTER'S

- Must hold a bachelor's degree
- Minimum GPA 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation
- Personal statement articulating why you wish to pursue this program
- Interview
- Writing sample

### SIXTH YEAR CERTIFICATE

- Candidates holding a master's from this program are not eligible
- Minimum GPA 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation
- Personal statement articulating why you wish to pursue this program
- Interview
- Writing sample

## FORMAL ADMISSION PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed when they are fully complete. Submit application and all supporting materials well in advance of the semester for which you are applying to allow time for application review and program availability.

Students seeking admission must complete and submit the following online:

1. A completed application.  
(apply online at [fairfield.edu/gseap](http://fairfield.edu/gseap))
2. A non-refundable \$60 application fee.
3. A professional resume. Applicants are required to submit a current resume that includes employment and educational history.
4. A personal statement. Students should describe why they want to undertake graduate studies in the program for which they are applying (approximately two pages).
5. Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended. Applicants are expected to have a minimum 3.0 GPA at the graduate level. Two recommendations completed online. Suggested recommendations include undergraduate or graduate professors, major advisor, work supervisor, or a professional in the field that you wish to study who knows you. Note that recommendations from friends or co-workers are not accepted.
6. Participate in an admissions interview (applicants are notified regarding an interview after a review of their credentials).

Submit transcripts and any other documents that cannot be uploaded to:

Fairfield University  
Office of Graduate Admission  
Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center  
1073 North Benson Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824

## NON-MATRICULATED STUDENT ADMISSION PROCESS

If you have not completed the formal admission process and want to begin taking courses now, please consider non-matriculated student status. Non-matriculated students are not eligible for any tuition or financial aid support, and may complete a maximum of 6 credit hours prior to becoming a fully matriculated student.

1. Apply online- Graduate Admission Application
2. Submit \$60 non-refundable application fee
3. Answer "Yes" to the Non-Matriculated Student question
4. Choose Term to begin coursework

## BACKGROUND CHECK AND FINGERPRINTING

Fingerprinting and background checks are required for certification programs. Please contact the Dean's office at 203-254-4250 for updated information.

## **MANDATORY IMMUNIZATIONS REQUIRED PRIOR TO REGISTRATION**

Connecticut state law requires each full-time or matriculated student to provide proof of immunity or screening against measles, mumps, rubella, varicella (chicken pox), meningitis, and tuberculosis. Certain exemptions based on age and housing status apply. Matriculating students are defined as those enrolled in a degree seeking program. More detailed information and the required downloadable forms are available online at [fairfield.edu/immunization](http://fairfield.edu/immunization). Completed forms should be submitted directly to the Student Health Center. Although this is not required to complete an application, candidates must provide proof of immunity/screening prior to course registration. Candidates should consult their private health care provider to obtain the necessary immunizations. Questions may be directed to the Student Health Center: 203-254-4000, ext. 2241 or e-mailed to [health@fairfield.edu](mailto:health@fairfield.edu).

## **TUITION/FINANCIAL AID**

Academic Year 2018-19  
Tuition: \$775 per credit hour

A graduate education can provide countless professional and personal rewards in the future. However, the costs associated with earning a master's degree may be challenging. Many students need to look beyond their own financial resources or the resources of their employer for assistance. There are many ways to finance a graduate education, including graduate assistantships, federal direct loan programs, and our Veteran's Pride Program, which are all discussed at [fairfield.edu/gradfa](http://fairfield.edu/gradfa).

## **OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID**

Advisors from the Office of Financial Aid are committed to helping students find the options that best suit each of their needs. We encourage all Fairfield University graduate students to contact the Financial Aid office with any questions or to make an appointment to speak with a counselor

### **FINANCIAL AID CONTACT INFORMATION**

Phone: 203-254-4125  
Fax: 203-254-4008  
E-mail: [finaid@fairfield.edu](mailto:finaid@fairfield.edu)

### **FINANCIAL AID OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Days: Monday-Friday  
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

## **MORE INFORMATION**

### **ADMISSION QUESTIONS**

Questions about the application process should be directed to the **Office of Graduate Admission**.

Phone: 203-254-4184  
Fax: 203-254-4073  
E-mail: [gradadmis@fairfield.edu](mailto:gradadmis@fairfield.edu)

### **OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Days: Monday-Friday  
Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Location: Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J. Center

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS WEBSITE**

[fairfield.edu/gseap](http://fairfield.edu/gseap)

## **PROGRAM WEBSITE**

[fairfield.edu/reading](http://fairfield.edu/reading)