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SECTION I: MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN/DEPARTMENT CHAIR/PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Welcome to the Master of Reading Program,

To accommodate the working professional, the Master of Reading Program is a 100% online program. The Master’s of Reading program allows the graduate student to earn a master's degree with the option of applying coursework to seek certification as a Reading Specialist. The program adheres to the International Literacy Association's Standards for Literacy Professionals and The Texas Education Agency’s framework for Reading Specialists.

The Master of Science in Reading prepares graduates to:

- Have a deep knowledge of the reading and literacy processes
- Use theory, research, and current best practices to ensure and enhance their students’ learning
- Conduct research to analyze and evaluate potential changes to reading curriculum and practice

Program Mission

The mission of the Master of Reading program in the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Sciences is to prepare literacy specialists who have a deep knowledge of the reading and literacy processes; use theory, research, and current best practices to ensure and enhance their students’ learning; and use research to analyze and evaluate potential changes to PK-12 reading curriculum and practice. This mission supports the overarching missions of the Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Sciences, College of Education and Human Development, and Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. The department’s emphasis on preparing graduates to be professionals in various learning environments through innovative teaching and research is reflected in the program’s mission of preparing knowledgeable literacy specialists who use research to analyze and evaluate reading curriculum and practice. The program mission supports the College of Education and Human Development’s mission of excellence in “instruction, research…to serve the educational needs in the global community.”

Student Achievements

Many students who graduate with a Master of Science in Reading have taken positions as district curriculum coordinators or instructional coaches. Graduate students of this program have gone on to teach at community colleges, serve as coordinators for adult literacy, and consultants. Several students have continued their education by applying to doctoral programs.
SECTION II: FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Kelli Bippert
Assistant Professor
Specialization: Adolescent literacy & technology-based reading interventions
361-825-3314
kelli.bippert@tamucc.edu

Dr. Bethanie Pletcher
Associate Professor
Specialization: Curriculum and Instruction, Reading
361-825-3892
bethanie.pletcher@tamucc.edu

Dr. Corinne Valadez
Professor, Program Coordinator
Specialization: Curriculum and Instruction, Reading
361-825-3336
corinne.valadez@tamucc.edu

Donna DeGaish
Administrative Associate
Curriculum and Instruction
361-825-3368
donna.degaish@tamucc.edu

Dr. Tracy Harper
Assistant Professor
Specialization: Curriculum and Instruction, Reading
361-825-3658
tracy.harper@tamucc.edu
SECTION III: LEARNING OUTCOMES
The learning outcomes for the Master of Reading program are as follows:

- Have a deep knowledge of the reading and literacy processes
- Use theory, research, and current best practices to ensure and enhance their students’ learning
- Conduct research to analyze and evaluate potential changes to reading curriculum and practice

SECTION IV. UNIVERSITY GRADUATE RESOURCES

This handbook is designated for students enrolled in the Master of Science in Reading Program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The policies, procedures, and expectations expressed within this student handbook explicitly apply to the students accepted and enrolled in the program. The program has attempted to outline the most specific and important information for students, particularly if the program’s expectation of students exceeds the College of Graduate Studies or other university policies and procedures. University resources are listed below:

University Handbook of Rules & Procedures

Please refer to Section 13 for students in the University Handbook of Rules and Procedures which can be located at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/

College of Graduate Studies – TAMUCC

The policies, procedures, and expectations for the all graduate students can be found within the College of Graduate Studies Master Student Handbook which can be located at: https://gradcollege.tamucc.edu/current_students/assets/masters_student_handbook.pdf

General Academic Policies for Graduate Students

The General Academic Policies for Graduate Students can be located at: https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/

Graduate Catalog

A link to the complete Graduate Catalog can be located at: https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/

Academic Policies (both general university and graduate)

- Graduate Admissions
  - https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/admissions/
- Registration (university)
  - Registration: https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/
- Enrollment Status
Enrollment Status: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)

- Continuous Enrollment/Leave of Absence
  - Exceptions to Full-Time Enrollment Minimums: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)

Withdrawal from the University: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)

- Leave of Absence: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
- Time I
  - Maximum Course Load: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
  - Maximum Hours Graded Credit/No Credit: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
- Repetition of a Course
  - Repetition of a Course: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
- Recency of Credit
  - Time Limit to Degree and Recency of Credit for Master’s Degrees: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
  - Continuous Enrollment and Residency: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
- Revalidation of Courses
  - Revalidation of Courses Beyond the Seven Year Limit for Master’s Degrees: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
- Transfer of Credit
  - Transfer Credit: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/academic-degree-requirements/)
- Grading and calculation of GPA
  - Grades: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)
  - Calculation of Grade Point Average: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)
  - Change of Grade: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)
  - Removing the Grade of Incomplete: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)
  - Credit/No Credit Grading: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)
- Academic Appeals Policy
  - Grade Appeals Process: [https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/](https://catalog.tamucc.edu/graduate/general-academic-policies-regulations/)
- Academic Integrity/Honesty Policies
SECTION V: IMPORTANT UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Student Health Services

The university has a University Health Center that provides health care services to students. Health Center visits are by appointment only. To schedule a virtual or in-person appointment, please call the Health Center at (361) 825-2601.

The University Health Center is located in the Sandpiper Building and is open Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (closed 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM for lunch).

Counseling Services

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers a range of services to support students. Their goal is to provide students with timely and flexible access to wellness and mental health resources and to empower students to find solutions, achieve their goals, and feel better. TAMU-CC students who are enrolled for the current academic term, have paid the Student Services fee, and whose needs match our services, are eligible for Counseling Center services.

- If you are in crisis, or are concerned about a TAMUCC student in crisis, please call us at 361-825-2703. Counselors are available by phone 24 hours a day, every day to speak...
with you. If you call outside of regular business hours (over the noon hour, after 5pm, weekends or holidays), you will hear a recording instructing you to press “2” to be connected to the after-hours crisis counselor. The Counselor on Duty can meet face to face with students who are in crisis during regular business hours.

- Not in crisis but wanting to talk to a counselor? Virtual Consult Hours with the Counselor on Duty are available Monday-Friday. Call 361-825-2703.

GROW

As part of the College of Graduate Studies, the Graduate Resource and Opportunity Workspace (GROW) offers graduate students’ exclusive space and resources tailored specifically to their academic needs and professional development. GROW provides services including professional workshops, student support events, networking activities, and community service opportunities.

CASA

Library

The Mary and Jeff Bell Library is available to students enrolled at TAMUCC. The Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Sciences and Masters of Reading Program has a librarian dedicated to helping students, Trisha Hernandez. She can be reached at patricia.hernandez@tamucc.edu.

Advising

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this catalog. Students are advised, however, that such information is subject to change without notice. Therefore, students should consult with your faculty advisor, Dr. Corinne Valadez, each semester prior to registration. Students should be aware that courses are offered in a specific sequence and are only offered once a year.

Distance Fee Waiver

Distance Fee Waiver Eligibility (If approved, the Distance Fee Waiver will waive the Athletic, Health Services, Recreational Sports and Student Center fees.) Students qualify for the distance fee waiver, when registered in 100% online courses for which each was assessed a Distance Education fee; and live more than 100 miles from the Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi Campus. Please note that a new Distance Fee Waiver Request Form is required each semester.


SECTION VI: ACADEMIC PROGRESSION
Application Process

Step 1: Application
Complete Application for Admission:
Apply Texas Application
*NOTE: If the program is not listed as an option on ApplyTexas for a given semester, students may no longer apply for that program for that semester.
Pay Application Fee
$50 for U.S. citizen; $70 for International Students
Pay fee during the ApplyTexas application
Pay fee online: Pay Online
Pay fee on campus to Business Office
If you will be paying your application fee at a later time or qualify for an application fee waiver, please mark "Check or Money Order" at the end of the ApplyTexas application.
Please Note: Students who change their admission status or program must pay the application processing fee associated with each new application. Degree-seeking students changing majors and/or seeking multiple degrees are required to complete a new application and pay the application processing fee. This application processing fee is required for every application submitted.
Defer Admission for an Earlier/Later Semester An application is good for up to one year. Should you not be able to enroll for the initial term you applied you may defer to a subsequent term, but only one deferral is allowed per application. Example: If you are applied or are admitted for the fall semester, but cannot start until a later term, you have the option of changing your entry term to the following spring or summer semesters. However, if you wish to enroll next fall or later, you would need to re-apply.
To defer your application, complete the Change of Entry Term Request form and email to gradweb@tamucc.edu.
*Please allow 3-5 business days to receive Student Identification number before submitting additional supporting documents.

Step 2: Send Additional Documents
Submit all documents online at https://www.tamucc.edu/grad-college/new-students/statement.php.
Documents may include: Essays, Writing Samples, Official Transcripts, etc.
Official Transcripts (REQUIRED)
Official transcripts documenting all undergraduate and graduate course work taken at any accredited college or university attended are required. Official transcripts must be sent directly to Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi from the granting institution. Official transcript can be submitted electronically through an acceptable transcript delivery network (eSCRIPsafe, Parchment Exchange, Credentials Solutions). Copied/Scanned/Notarized copies transcripts are not considered official. TAMU-CC transcript is not required.
Separate study abroad transcripts are not be required if: a) If you earned your bachelor’s degree from an accredited U.S. institution; b) All courses, credits, and grades from the study abroad school are clearly indicated on the transcript from your home institution; and c) Your period of study abroad was no more than one semester.
All college level academic coursework taken at international/foreign colleges and universities must be evaluated by a University approved certified evaluation agency. Official evaluations must be sent directly to Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi from the agencies. Copied/Scanned/Notarized copies evaluations are not considered official. For information the University approved certified agencies, check the International Students page. Applicants who have not yet graduated with their bachelor’s or master’s degree should send the transcript with the most recently completed semester grades. The transcript should be resubmitted once the degree has been awarded. All service members and military veterans are required to submit an official copy of their military transcripts. For information on how to request military transcripts, click here. For information regarding international transcript requirements, click here. Official Transcripts and Official Evaluation Reports must be sent to Graduate Admissions directly from the granting institutions or University approved agencies:

Office of Recruitment & Admissions  
Attn: Graduate Admissions  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5774  
Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Step 3: After Applying

Track your application online or by calling us: 361-825-2753 or e-mail gradweb@tamucc.edu. Upon acceptance to the program students will need to sign and return the following forms: the intent to enroll, indicate whether or not they are seeking certification as a reading specialist, and the Code of Ethics. Apply for University Scholarships. Schedule a meeting with program advisor, Dr. Corinne Valadez. Visit the S.A.I.L Student Portal to register for classes. View or print the New Graduate Student Navigation Quick Guide.

Program Degree Requirements

The requirements for the Master of Reading degree are 36 semester credit hours, including 33 semester hours in Reading and an additional 3-credit research course. The student choosing to receive a Reading Specialist Certificate Teacher Certificate should consult with program coordinator, Dr. Corinne Valadez. Most students enrolled in the Master of Reading program complete all course requirements in two years.

Graduate Advisor

Students will be advised by the program coordinator.
**Degree Plan**

1. Foundation Course (3 semester hours)
   - EDFN 5301 - Introduction to Research 3 **sem. hrs.**

2. Reading Requirements (24 semester hours)
   - READ 5345 - Stages and Standards for Reading Development 3 **sem. hrs.**
   - READ 5350 - Multicultural Literacy 3 **sem. hrs.**
   - READ 5371 - Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Problems 3 **sem. hrs.**
   - READ 5392 - Psycho-sociolinguistics and Reading 3 **sem. hrs.**
   - ** READ 5395 - Leadership and Literacy 3 **sem. hrs.**
   - READ 5697 - Reading Practicum 6 **sem. hrs.**
   - READ 5396 - Literacy Research Seminar 3 **sem. hrs.**

3. Electives (9 semester hours)
   - * Electives for Reading Specialist Certificate Teacher (9 semester hours)
     - READ 5381 - Exploring the Literature of Children and Adolescents 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - READ 5310 - Emergent Literacy 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - READ 5314 - College/Adult Literacy 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - READ 5346 - Trends and issues in Literacy 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - READ 5352 - Theoretical Models of Reading and Writing 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - ** READ 5369 - Content Area Reading 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - ** READ 5372 - Classroom Assessment and instruction 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - READ 5393 - Literacy Curriculum and Supervision 3 **sem. hrs.**
     - READ 5390 - Professional Seminar: Special Topics in Literacy 3 **sem. hrs.**

Requirements for Reading Specialist Certification

All candidates seeking certification as a Reading Specialist must meet the following requirements as established by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

- Complete a Masters of Reading or closely aligned area.
- Have two years teaching experience.
- Complete 160 practicum hours. Since this is an all level certification, half of the hours are to be completed at the elementary level and the other half at the secondary level. All practicum hours are to take place at a TEA approved campus.
- Complete 135 + observation minutes with University faculty or other persons who satisfy TEA requirements.
- Complete a dyslexia module.
- Sign Texas Education Code of Ethics for Educators.
• Take and pass Exam 151, Reading Specialist.

• READ 5345 - Stages and Standards for Reading Development 3 sem. hrs.
• READ 5350 - Multicultural Literacy 3 sem. hrs.
• READ 5369 - Content Area Reading 3 sem. hrs.
• READ 5371 - Diagnosis and Correction of Reading Problems 3 sem. hrs.
• READ 5395 – Leadership and Literacy 3 sem. hrs.
• READ 5697 - Reading Practicum 6 sem. hrs.

Capstone Project

All students will engage in a capstone experience within READ 5396 - Literacy Research Seminar. Candidates for this degree must successfully present and defend a capstone project to a faculty panel.

The Master’s program in Reading is a state-approved program that fulfills the requirements in order to sit the certification exam as well.

SECTION VII: COURSE OFFERING SEQUENCE

Courses are seven weeks in duration except for READ 5697: Practicum and Supervision and READ 5396: Advanced Literacy Seminar. These two courses are both semester long or 15 week courses. Students are advised to take two courses each semester. Each course includes observation hours which students log and submit to course instructor. The average time to degree completion is two years.

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<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Observation Hours</th>
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<td>READ 5395</td>
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*Secondary
**Split between Secondary & Elementary

This course must be taken your LAST semester before you graduate.

SECTION VIII. PROGRAM SPECIFIC INFORMATION

**Student Organizations:** Student Reading Council

**Program/College Awards:** College of Graduate Studies, Outstanding Master’s Student Award

**Conferences to Attend:** Students are encouraged but not required to present/attend Texas Association of Literacy Educators (TALE) Conference.

SECTION IX: TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

Chapter 239. Student Services Certificates

Subchapter D. Reading Specialist Certificate

Statutory Authority: The provisions of this Subchapter D issued under the Texas Education Code, §21.031(a) and §21.041(b)(1)-(4), unless otherwise noted.
§239.90. General Provisions.

(a) Because the reading specialist plays a critical role in campus effectiveness and student achievement, the rules adopted by the State Board for Educator Certification in this subchapter ensure that each candidate for the Reading Specialist Certificate is of the highest caliber and possesses the knowledge and skills necessary to improve the performance of the diverse student population of this state.

(b) An individual serving as a reading specialist is expected to actively participate in professional development activities to continually update his or her knowledge and skills. Currency in best practices and research as related to both campus leadership and student learning is essential.

(c) The holder of the Reading Specialist Certificate issued under the provisions of this subchapter may teach reading to students in Prekindergarten-Grade 12.

Source: The provisions of this §239.90 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective July 13, 2004, 29 TexReg 6645; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.91. Minimum Requirements for Admission to a Reading Specialist Preparation Program.

(a) Prior to admission to an educator preparation program leading to the standard Reading Specialist Certificate, an individual must:

(1) hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education that at the time was accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

(2) meet the requirements for admission to an educator preparation program under Chapter 227 of this title (relating to Provisions for Educator Preparation Candidates).

(b) An educator preparation program may adopt requirements for admission in addition to those required in subsection (a) of this section.

Source: The provisions of this §239.91 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.92. Preparation Program Requirements.
(a) Structured, field-based training must be focused on actual experiences with each of the standards identified in the State Board for Educator Certification-approved reading specialist standards to include experiences with diverse types of students, grade levels, and campuses.

(b) An educator preparation program must develop and implement specific criteria and procedures that allow a candidate to substitute related professional reading specialist training and/or experience directly related to the standards identified in subsection (a) of this section for part of the preparation coursework or other program requirements.

Source: The provisions of this §239.92 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.93. Requirements for the Issuance of the Reading Specialist Certificate.

To be eligible to receive the standard Reading Specialist Certificate, a candidate must:

1. successfully complete a reading specialist preparation program that meets the requirements of §239.92 of this title (relating to Preparation Program Requirements);

2. successfully complete the examination based on the standards identified in §239.92 of this title;

3. hold, at a minimum, a master's degree from an accredited institution of higher education that at the time was accredited or otherwise approved by an accrediting organization recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

4. have two creditable years teaching experience as a classroom teacher, as defined in Chapter 153, Subchapter CC, of this title (relating to Commissioner's Rules on Creditable Years of Service) and the Texas Education Code, §5.001(2).

Source: The provisions of this §239.93 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.94. Requirements to Renew the Standard Reading Specialist Certificate.

(a) An individual issued the standard Reading Specialist Certificate under this title is subject to Chapter 232, Subchapter B, of this title (relating to Certificate Renewal and Continuing Professional Education Requirements).

(b) An individual who holds a valid Texas reading specialist certificate issued prior to September 1, 1999, may voluntarily comply with the requirements of this section under
procedures implemented by the Texas Education Agency staff under §232.810 of this title (relating to Voluntary Renewal of Current Texas Educators).

Source: The provisions of this §239.94 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

§239.95. Transition and Implementation Dates.

Section 239.93 of this title (relating to Requirements for the Issuance of the Reading Specialist Certificate) shall be implemented on September 1, 2003, and shall supersede all conflicting provisions in this title on September 1, 2004. All other sections of this subchapter shall take effect pursuant to the Texas Government Code, §2001.036.

Source: The provisions of this §239.95 adopted to be effective February 6, 2003, 28 TexReg 936; amended to be effective December 23, 2009, 34 TexReg 9201.

For more information, email sbecrules@tea.texas.gov.

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- **Practicum (TAC 228.35(e.6))**  Practicum: 160 hours (228.35(e.6))  If issued probationary or internship certification: one full school year (228.35(e.2.C))
  - Demonstrate proficiency in each of the related educator standards (228.35(e.6))