GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY

Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement & Science of Reading Certificate

PROGRAM GUIDE

COHORT 5

MAY 2027 – AUGUST 2028



BACKGROUND & PHILOSOPHY

Nearly 1 in 5 children has dyslexia, yet educators are often underprepared to notice the signs and create learning environments that meet their needs. Dyslexia is a neurobiological specific learning disability characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, poor spelling and poor decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language.

There is a nationwide movement to shift instruction toward a structured approach with a solid basis in foundational phonemic and phonics instruction. At Grand View University (GVU), our programs are designed to equip educators with this exact Structured Literacy approach, ensuring that they can help students advance along a developmentally appropriate trajectory and eliminate unintended skill gaps with explicit, direct instruction.



ACCREDITATION & CREDENTIALING

STATE APPROVAL

The Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement was established by the Iowa Department of Education and the Iowa Legislature to respond to the needs of parents and educators across the state.

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

Our coursework is meticulously aligned with the International Dyslexia Association's (IDA) Knowledge and Practice Standards for Teachers of Reading (KPS).

CERI CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

The program prepares graduates for the Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEERI) exam, a component of the Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI) certification.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement program follows a cohort model, with a new cohort beginning each year in mid-May. For best consideration, applicants are encouraged to apply by April 1, when initial admission decisions are made. However, applications will continue to be reviewed on a rolling basis until the cohort is full.

APPLYING FOR ADMISSION

Requirements

- ✔ A baccalaureate degree earned from a regionally accredited institution, evidenced by a transcript.
- ✔ Validated minimum undergraduate grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. (Students below 3.0 will be considered for provisional acceptance.)
- ✔ A current or pending license to teach in the United States.
- ✔ A completed application for admission.
- ✔ Online process to verify identity as required by federal regulations.
- ✔ Dyslexia Endorsement requires Experience Verification Form or other sufficient documentation of at least three years of teaching experience in a K–12 setting.
    - ✔ Experience must be verified by school administrator.
    - ✔ Once you have submitted the application for admission, you will enter your administrator name and email address on the landing page of the application portal under the Experience Verification Form. Please contact Ginger Hermon at *ghermon@grandview.edu* if you need additional administrator(s) to complete the online Experience Verification Form.

TRANSFER CREDITS

Think you might have transferable coursework? We're happy to review transcripts! While transfer equivalents are rare, LETRS training can be transferred for EDGR 586: Linguistics for Educators. Look for the LETRS-Trained section on our program page.

"The experience was truly transformative for me, both professionally & personally. I honestly cannot imagine being in my current role in DMPS without having gone through the program. [. . .] The foundation that I gained through the program guides nearly every lesson I teach, & I would be totally lost in this role without it!"

– Rose Hodgson, endorsement graduate & teacher

ARE YOU A GOOD FIT?

The Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement is not your average program.

BRAND NEW TO THE SCIENCE OF READING & DYSLEXIA?

Our program may not be the best fit for you . . . yet! We need our endorsees to enter the program with a foundation in Structured Literacy. However, we can direct you to good sources for self study.

You Are a Good Fit for the Endorsement If You:

- ✔ Want to fill the need for professionals trained in pedagogy attuned to the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy
- ✔ Recognize the causal relationship between instruction and student outcomes
- ✔ Want to enrich their literacy pedagogy with effective strategies and provide training in the complex process of learning to read and write

Apply for the Endorsement If You Want to Be Trained In:

- ✔ Characteristics of the neurobiological origin of dyslexia
- ✔ Evaluating and adapting curriculum to best meet the needs of our most struggling readers
- ✔ Formal assessments used for diagnosing dyslexia and diagnostic assessments to guide instruction
- ✔ Collaborative instructional design that advocates for student needs

You're Ready for the Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement If You:

- ✔ Have at least 3 years of teaching experience in a K-12 setting (can be completed by the end of the Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement program)
- ✔ Are prepared to work with students who have dyslexia or characteristics of dyslexia
- ✔ Can commit to 18 credit hours
- ✔ Can learn in a synchronous, online environment with required meeting times and some in-person sessions
- ✔ Most classes meet Tuesday nights via Zoom or Teams from 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- ✔ In-person is strongly preferred for two Saturdays in the fall and an additional weekend in May/early June of the second summer. We can accommodate attendance via Zoom.

Not Ready for the Endorsement? Start with a Science of Reading Certificate!*

The certificate is ideal for educators who want to:

- ✔ Learn the advanced skills for evaluation, data-based decision making, intervention design and instruction to align with unique and specific learner needs.
- ✔ Learn evidence-based instruction aligned with the Science of Reading to structured literacy and evidence-based speech to print practices
- ✔ Learn & teach phonological processing, phonics, orthography, morphology, syntax, & semantic

*A certificate will not be added to your license.

DETERMINING THE RIGHT PROGRAM

Grand View University offers three distinct programs aimed at enhancing educators' literacy instruction skills: the Reading Endorsement, the Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement and the Science of Reading Certificate. GVU's programs cater to educators at various stages of their careers, offering opportunities to specialize in literacy instruction and support students with diverse reading needs. Whether aiming to become a Reading Specialist, Dyslexia Specialist, or enhance general literacy teaching skills, these programs provide structured pathways to achieve those goals. All three programs can be part of our Master's in Education degree.

PROGRAM DETAILS	READING ENDORSEMENT	DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT	SCIENCE OF READING CERTIFICATE
CREDITS	20-26	18	10
PRACTICUM REQUIRED	YES	YES	NO
TARGET AUDIENCE	Undergrads or graduates who want a more robust background in literacy instruction to support students in their classrooms or as reading specialists/ interventionists.	Designed for educators with at least 3 years of teaching experience in a K-12 setting who are prepared to work with students who have dyslexia or characteristics of dyslexia.	Designed for educators who want to enrich their literacy pedagogy with effective strategies.

FAQs

OVERALL ENDORSEMENT

Q. Will I be qualified to diagnose dyslexia after this program?
A. No. Additional training is required that GVU does not offer.

Q. What is the KPEERI Exam?
A. The **Knowledge and Practice Examination for Effective Reading Instruction (KPEERI) Exam** assesses structured literacy knowledge. Passing the exam is required for completion of our program.

Q. Is the program manageable for someone teaching full-time?
A. Yes! Almost all of our students have full-time jobs in education, along with families and other responsibilities. The program was designed with this in mind.

Q. Can I pursue CERI certification after this endorsement program?
A. Yes! Although not required, you may want to consider pursuing CERI certification (Certified Dyslexia Interventionist or Specialist). Differences between Interventionist and Specialist levels are outlined on the **CERI website**. If you decide to pursue this, keep in mind:

- ✔ Grand View is currently following the Alternate Route to certification.
- ✔ This practicum counts as one of the three required for CERI certification.
- ✔ Specialist-level certification requires 48 sessions over 24 consecutive weeks, so a third practicum may be necessary.

Q. How long is the program? When does it start?
A. The Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement program is 15 months and new cohorts start every May. The Science of Reading certificate program is 13 months and cohorts begin with the DSE program in May.

Q. What can I do with a Dyslexia Specialist endorsement?
A. Potential career outcomes might include:

- ✔ Dyslexia Specialists
- ✔ Literacy Coaches*
- ✔ Reading Interventionists/Specialists*

*Please note: some districts may require a Reading Endorsement for these positions.

Q. Can the Dyslexia Specialist endorsement count for a Reading endorsement?
A. In short, no. It is a complicated process to have the Iowa BOEE examine our coursework in order to determine which courses from the DSE program might overlap with the Reading endorsement. At the moment, additional coursework would be required in order to add a Reading endorsement to your license.

Please note: some posted teaching positions requiring a reading endorsement may be able to accept a Dyslexia Specialist endorsement, however, this is not a guarantee.

PRACTICUM FAQs

ASSESSMENT PRACTICUM (FALL)

Q. How many students do I need to work with?
A. You must work with two students:

- ✔ One elementary student (grades 2-6)
- ✔ One secondary student (grades 9-12 preferred)

NOTE: Middle school students can be used, but communication with the program coordinator is required.

Q. Does Grand View find students for me to work with?
A. No. At the moment, GVU students are responsible for finding their own practicum students. Most GVU students end up using previous or current students as their practicum students. We can also share some ideas and resources for helping you connect with families.

PRACTICUM FAQs

ASSESSMENT PRACTICUM (FALL) CONTINUED

Q. When and where does the practicum occur?
A. Most GVU students work with their practicum students outside of school hours. This time is coordinated between the GVU student and the family. We recommend coordinating meeting times at public libraries.

Q. What assessments will we be trained to use?
A. We use these assessments:

- ✔ Tests of Dyslexia (TOD)
- ✔ Woodcock-Johnson IV (Achievement & Oral Language)
- ✔ Word Identification & Spelling Test (WIST)
- ✔ Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP-2)
- ✔ Parent & Teacher Surveys

Q. Do I need to purchase the tests?
A. No. Grand View provides temporary access.

INTERVENTION PRACTICUM (SUMMER #2)

Q. Do you require use of a specific curriculum?
A. No. In fact, it's important for our program to remain "agnostic" when it comes to curriculums. There is no one-size-fits-all curriculum that is the perfect fit for all students with characteristics of dyslexia. Instead, we focus on structured literacy routines that are prescriptive and based on the needs of your individual student, which we help you identify through formal and informal assessments.

Q. What kind of instruction will I provide?
A. You will implement the structured literacy routines, aligned with the IDA Knowledge and Practice Standards, that you create during the Spring semester. Your intervention plans will be based on assessment data from the fall course as well as from additional informal assessments.

Q. What are the tutoring requirements?
A. They are

- ✔ 2 students (1 elementary, 1 secondary). Ideally, the same students from the fall practicum.
- ✔ 10 weeks of instruction
- ✔ 20 total sessions per student (2x per week per student)
- ✔ Minimum 45-minute sessions (60 minutes recommended)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

TERM	DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT	SCIENCE OF READING CERTIFICATE
SUMMER #1	EDGR 592: The Science of Dyslexia EDGR 586: Linguistics and Structured Literacy	EDGR 592: The Science of Dyslexia EDGR 586: Linguistics and Structured Literacy
CREDITS:	6	6
FALL	EDGR 593: Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis of Language and Literacy Difficulties EDGR 596: Dyslexia Practicum 1: Advanced Assessment	(Choose EDGR 593 or 594) EDGR 593: Screening, Assessment and Diagnosis of Language and Literacy Difficulties
CREDITS:	6	(3)
SPRING	EDGR 594: Diagnostic Literacy Instruction and Intervention	(Choose EDGR 593 or 594) EDGR 594: Diagnostic Literacy Instruction & Intervention
CREDITS:	3	(3)
SUMMER #2	EDGR 595: Principles for Effective Structured Literacy & Intervention EDGR 597: Dyslexia Practicum 2: Advanced Reading Intervention	EDGR 595: Principles for Effective Structured Literacy & Intervention
CREDITS:	3	1

TUITION, FEES & REFUND POLICY

TUITION & FEES*

- ✔ $415: Per credit hour
- ✔ $100: Technology fee per semester
- ✔ $32: Online course fee per credit hour
- ✔ $75: EDGR 595 course fee

DYSLEXIA SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT ESTIMATED TOTAL: $8,521

SCIENCE OF READING CERTIFICATE ESTIMATED TOTAL: $4,845

*Rates as of October 2026. All rates subject to annual changes. Contact admissions for updated pricing at (515) 263-6183 or Ginger Hermon at ghermon@grandview.edu. Estimates are not guarantees. Totals vary per student.

REFUND POLICY

Before dropping any classes or withdrawing from the program, students must communicate with their advisor, financial aid and the business office. Students who withdraw or drop may not be eligible for refunds and may be subject to additional regulations if they have received state grant monies.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND STIPENDS

Advanced Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement Grant

Eligible Iowa educators may receive state grant funding covering up to the remaining cost of tuition and required program fees for the K-12 Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement.

Carolyn & Ken Wassenaar Education Scholarship

Available to Education Graduate students pursuing their Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement or Reading Endorsement and Education Undergraduate students pursuing their Reading Endorsement.

Iowa Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement Stipend

Eligible Iowa educators may receive a $2,000 stipend after completing the Dyslexia Specialist Endorsement and adding it to their Iowa teaching license.

INSTRUCTORS

KATY SEVERE
Professor of Practice, Level I Program Coordinator

CASSIE ASCHEMAN
Adjunct Lecturer of Education and Supervisor

JAMA JOHNSON
Adjunct Lecturer of Education and Supervisor

EMILY KOSON
Adjunct Lecturer of Education and Supervisor

SUPERVISORS

KRIS HILL

AMY SOBASKI

CORRINE SWIGART

REBECCA WELLS

LISA WILLIAMS

GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY

CONTACT US

Have Questions? We Can Help!

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ADMISSIONS QUESTIONS
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MORE INFORMATION





"I cannot thank Grand View enough and all of our amazing professors. [They] reminded us on the daily that we were on this path for a reason and that what we were pursuing was & is going to change lives!"

– Samantha Henningsen, graduate & teacher

"Understanding the difference in brain mapping between a typical reader and a child with dyslexia deeply impressed on me the importance of a quality structured literacy program."

– Angie Bakker, endorsement graduate