Master of Science in Education (M.S.Ed.)

Literacy Birth-Grade 6 or Grades 5-12

The Vision

The teacher education unit faculty at SUNY Plattsburgh engages in the professional development of educators at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Our purpose is to prepare educators who are competent, qualified, and caring relative to New York State Education Department (NYSED) standards; who are anchored in the university’s commitment to the liberal arts; and, who endeavor to practice effective pedagogy, reflect critically upon teaching and the learning process, and exemplify ethical, human and democratic principles within a complex technological and global society.

The shared vision reflects our commitment to diversity and technology across the curriculum, and dedication to preparing our education majors to work with students with culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds and students with disabilities—all students.

The core elements of the shared vision are summarized in nine themes to prepare competent, qualified, and caring teachers:

- Content in Context
- Learning Environments
- Technology
- Assessment
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Recursive Learning
- Collaboration
- Modeling
- Multiculturalism and Diversity

NYSED certification in either Literacy Birth-Grade 6 or Literacy Grades 5-12. The program has been structured to be in alignment with the Standards for Reading Professionals adopted by the International Reading Association.

In order to comply with NYSED requirements, the program includes 50 hours of supervised practica at the range of grade levels you seek for certification.

Advantages of Our Program

- Tailor Your Own Professional Development: Take a variety of electives throughout your program in order to pursue interests in such things as instructional technology, linguistics, or children’s literature.
- Specialize in Literacy: Required courses in literacy build on your prior experience.
- Study Full-time or Part-time.
- Study at Convenient Hours: Courses are offered in the afternoon and evening so that our candidates may work as substitute or full-time teachers during the regular school day. Some of our classes are offered in a web-based format through distance learning.
- Learn from Experienced Faculty.

SUNY Plattsburgh

SUNY Plattsburgh’s Main Campus is located in a small city on the shores of Lake Champlain, bordering the Adirondack Mountains and one hour from Lake Placid; Burlington, Vermont; and Montreal, Canada. The Branch Campus in Queensbury is ideally located for those who reside in the greater Albany area. Easy access to recreation, arts, and entertainment make living in the region unique and enriching.

Graduate Program in Literacy

www.plattsburgh.edu/academics/education/literacy/master.php
Literacy Coursework

The new M.S.Ed. in Literacy requires a total of 36-37 credit hours. Details can be found on the website http://web.plattsburgh.edu/academics/education/literacy/master.php. The program is divided into four focus areas:

- **Foundations (9 credits)**. Courses in writing and the teaching of writing, literacy for democratic and global societies, and advanced study in literacy instruction lay the foundation for the other program focus areas. Coursework in Foundations must be completed before Specialization courses.

- **Specialization (8 credits)**. Coursework in Specialization focuses on a deeper understanding of literacy education, assessment of reading and writing skills and strategies, tutoring, and becoming a literacy leader. Two of the courses are taught in a combined format one day per week, starting in the afternoon and ending near 9 p.m. Specialization courses are only available during the spring semester and must be completed before the Clinical Experience.

- **Enrichment (13-14 credits)**. Enrichment courses may be taken before, during, or after Foundations and Specialization courses. Coursework in children's literature (3 credits), multicultural competencies (3 credits), practitioner research in literacy education (2 credits), and graduate level electives that enhance professional development (5-6 credits) are the focus of Enrichment.

- **Clinical Experience (6 credits)**. This 5-week clinical experience is offered in the Literacy Education Center on the Plattsburgh campus during the B and C summer sessions. Twenty-seven (27) credits (including all of the Specialization courses) must be completed prior to the Clinical Experience.

Culminating Experience:
All candidates must complete a portfolio that receives a positive review from the department’s faculty.

Admission Requirements

- Appropriate preparation at the baccalaureate level;
- Completed Graduate Study Application with required supporting materials;
- Evidence of a 2.75 undergraduate GPA on a 4.0 scale;
- Three letters of recommendation that address your ability to take part in a graduate program in education;
- Statement of purpose indicating why you want to enter this program;
- Resume indicating relevant teaching experience;
- Copy of your teaching certificate at the elementary and/or secondary level;
- Completed Literacy Questionnaire for Applicants;
- Artifact that gives additional and unique information about you and a written rationale for your selection; and
- Attendance at an on-campus interview, if invited.

Financial Aid

Several forms of financial aid—including the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for New York State residents, Federal Direct Loans, and college work-study awards—are available to qualified graduate students. The college also offers a limited number of scholarships and assistantships. Access the following web page for more information on graduate assistantships: www.plattsburgh.edu/admissions/graduate/assistantships/.

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH) is a new federal grant for graduate students who intend to teach in public or private elementary or secondary schools that serve students from low-income families. For information, please go to www.studentaid.ed.gov/.

Part-time employment opportunities exist on campus and in the community. The graduate catalog and application packet have further information about financial aid. For more information, please email finaid@plattsburgh.edu.