



## FAQs: Advising for Reading Specialists (Advanced Licensure)

Question	Answer
<b>Where can I get current program documents including information about internships, etc.?</b>	Information about your program, course schedule, internship, etc., may be found in the online Advising Guide on the following website <a href="http://www.liberty.edu/advisingguide">www.liberty.edu/advisingguide</a> .
<b>How do I find out who my advisor is?</b>	All School of Education candidates share a group of LUO advisors who work together to give you consistent answers about your program. You can contact your LUO advisor by phone or email: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-800-424-9595 --- Ask specifically to speak to an LUO advisor for the School of Education</li> <li>• <a href="mailto:educ@liberty.edu">educ@liberty.edu</a> --- This email address is answered by a member of the advising team for the School of Education.</li> </ul>
<b>Is a previous teaching license required for Reading Specialists?</b>	The Reading Specialist is an <b>ADVANCED</b> licensure program which requires that you have an initial teaching license (may be earned at bachelor's level or MAT). If you do not have an initial teaching license you may choose to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll in MAT program to earn initial licensure in elementary, secondary, or special education. <i>The extra courses for the Reading Specialist degree can be added to this program allowing you to earn initial licensure and complete the specialist program at the same time.</i></li> </ul> <p>If you do NOT wish to pursue licensure, you may enroll in the MEd-Teaching &amp; Learning program instead of the MEd- Reading Specialist program. See details below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enroll in MEd-Teaching &amp; Learning (<b>non-licensure</b>) and include program specialist courses in the General Education specialization. Choosing non-licensure will limit job opportunities. Public schools and many private schools require the license before employment.</li> </ul>
<b>What are the teaching experience requirements for Reading Specialists?</b>	Three years of full-time teaching experience in an accredited school in which the teaching of Reading is an important responsibility is required for licensure. Teaching experience can be acquired before, during, or after the master's program. However, <b>ONE YEAR OF FULL-TIME TEACHING EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO EDUC 699, INTERNSHIP.</b> If three years of full-time

	teaching experience are not completed by the end of the program, the degree will be conferred but licensure will be delayed until three years of teaching experience is completed.
<b>Is an on-campus residence required for Reading Specialists?</b>	Twenty-five percent of the program is completed in residential intensives (3 courses): EDUC 622, 641, and 645. Intensives are offered as one-week courses in winter and summer and as weekend courses in the fall and spring.
<b>Can the internship be waived? Must I quit my teaching job to do the internship?</b>	<p>The internship cannot be waived, but there are two options to complete the degree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option #1:</b> Register for EDUC 699 and fulfill intern requirements for licensure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. If you are teaching full-time in a public school or an accredited private school, you may complete the internship in your current setting under the supervision of a Reading Specialist.</li> <li>b. If you are already employed as a Reading Specialist in a public school or an accredited private school, your job may serve as your internship, but you still need to enroll in EDUC 699 and successfully complete the course.</li> <li>c. If your employment is not in an accredited school, you should make arrangements to complete the internship in an accredited school, perhaps through release time and/or summer school.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Option #2:</b> If you cannot arrange release time and/or summer school for the internship, register for EDUC 696 and complete the degree without licensure (“opt out”). We can verify that you completed the coursework but did not complete the internship under LU supervision. It is possible to earn licensure at a later date by completing the internship requirement (within a 5 year limit).</li> </ul> <p><i>Note:</i> All M.Ed. in Reading Specialist degree requirements must be completed, including three intensives on campus. Otherwise the candidate must change to the M.Ed. in Teaching &amp; Learning (<b>non-licensure</b>) and include program specialist courses in the General Education specialization.</p>
<b>How long must the Reading Specialist Internship be?</b>	A minimum of 200 field experience hours are required for Reading Specialists. Up to 100 of these hours can be accumulated before the formal internship as the candidate completes the course benchmark assignments in collaboration with schools. A minimum of 100 hours must be completed during the internship, and the candidate must have 200 total hours by the completion of the internship. The Field Experience Summary form that you will need in order to log your field experience hours, can be found <a href="#">here</a> . For additional information refer to <a href="#">Student Teaching/Internship Requirements</a> .

<p><b>Who will supervise my internship?</b></p>	<p>Internship Supervisors must be licensed and experienced Reading Specialists with a graduate degree. You will work with two supervisors in your internship. Your Onsite Supervisor will assist you in your school setting. Your Online Supervisor/ Course Professor will grade internship assignments that you submit through Blackboard and LiveText.</p>
<p><b>I already have a master's degree and don't want another one. Can I just take the courses I lack for licensure as a Reading Specialist?</b></p>	<p><b>For Liberty Graduates:</b> If you already earned a master's degree from Liberty, you may just take the courses needed for licensure, and Liberty will process the licensure documents for you. However, we strongly encourage you to earn the additional degree as the coursework will be the equivalent or nearly the equivalent of an additional degree.</p> <p><b>For All Others:</b> The following two options are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option #1: [recommended]:</b> Enroll in the Ed.S. in Curriculum &amp; Instruction and complete the additional licensure requirements listed at the bottom of the Degree Completion Plan. This provides a twofold benefit to you: (1) you will most likely be paid a higher salary because of the Ed.S. degree, and (2) you will have obtained the licensure for a Reading Specialist.</li> <li>• <b>Option #2: [not recommended]:</b> Enroll in only the courses needed for licensure and submit the transcript to the Department of Education. [Candidates who need more than 12 credits for licensure must apply to a degree program even if they plan to stop after completing the courses required for licensure.]</li> </ul>
<p><b>May I get licensure as a Reading Specialist while also earning my Ed.D/ Ed.S.?</b></p>	<p>The licensure requirements are listed at the bottom of the current <a href="#">Degree Completion Plan</a> for the Ed.S./Ed.D. in Curriculum &amp; Instruction.</p>
<p><b>What licensure test is required for Reading Specialists?</b></p>	<p>All reading specialist candidates are required to take and submit a passing score on the Reading for Virginia Educators: Reading Specialists #5304 (RVE). The minimum passing score is 162. To register for the RVE, go to <a href="http://www.ets.org">http://www.ets.org</a>. NOTE: EDUC 554 or EDUC 659 is required BEFORE taking the RVE. If you are applying for a license in another state, you may be required to take a different test for your state. However, you will need to pass the RVE to be admitted to the program in Gate 3.</p>
<p><b>After completing this program, are there any other requirements</b></p>	<p>Upon completion of the degree requirements, including internship and licensure tests, you will submit licensure paperwork and fees as explained during the internship. All licensure paperwork is submitted to: Liberty University, School of Education, Licensure Office, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502. Email: <a href="mailto:teacher@liberty.edu">teacher@liberty.edu</a></p>

<p>necessary before I can work in a school system?</p>	
<p>My home state requires a “certificate.” How does this compare to the VA “license” as a Reading Specialist?</p>	<p>Liberty’s Reading Specialist program is approved for a VA license and is reciprocated in many other states. VA uses the term “license”, but it is the same credential as a “certificate.”</p>
<p>Will my license be valid in other states?</p>	<p>You have two choices to apply for licensure in another state. See the options below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option #1:</b> You may submit the licensure application for your state (usually available on your state’s Department of Education website). Liberty University’s licensure office will prepare the verification that you have completed a state-approved program. In most states, there are no other requirements for licensure. In some states you will need to take a state-specific test. There may also be a state-specific course to be completed during your first year of employment.</li> <li>• <b>Option #2:</b> You may submit the application for Virginia licensure and then apply for licensure in your state. This is the recommended route if you are not sure where you will be teaching.</li> </ul>
<p>What are the exact licensure requirements for my program?</p>	<p><b>8VAC20-22-620. Reading Specialist</b>  Endorsement requirements. The candidate must have completed an approved graduate-level reading specialist approved preparation program (master's degree required) that includes course experiences of at least 30 semester hours of graduate coursework in the competencies for the endorsement, as well as a practicum experience in the diagnosis and remediation of reading difficulties. The individual also must have at least three years of successful classroom teaching experience in which the teaching of reading was an important responsibility.  <a href="https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter22/section620/">https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter22/section620/</a></p> <p><b>For Non-Virginians:</b> The School of Education’s licensure programs are approved by the state of Virginia and are reciprocated by other states. Some of non-Virginian candidates choose to apply directly for their own state’s license. After your internship is complete, you may submit your own state’s application for licensure to LU’s licensure office.</p>