The knowledge base for the reading/language arts graduate programs reflects a comprehensive, balanced approach to literacy development, and a developmental perspective on literacy acquisition and growth from emergent through adolescent and adult literacy. It includes knowledge about reading and writing across content areas; the role of writing in learning; the role of literature in the classroom; student motivation and engagement through reading, writing, and discussion; and direct instruction in specific skills and strategies. Graduates receiving the Reading Certificate, Reading Specialist Credential, or Master's degree in reading are expected to reflect the current knowledge base in their own work and attitudes toward learners. Students regularly reflect on their professional advancement toward clearly defined competencies/exit behaviors throughout a series of courses, clinical work, and field experiences distributed across four strands: 1) curriculum/instruction; 2) assessment; 3) research; and 4) leadership.

The MA in Reading Education program is the only program that allows students to simultaneously earn an MA degree as well as the Reading Certificate or Reading Specialist Credential. San Diego State University’s graduate Reading Program was first reviewed by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing in August 2000 and was approved as meeting the most current California Standards for the Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential as well as the new state Reading Certificate. The program was revalidated and NCATE/CCTC approved in fall 2009.

There are four options in the MA in Reading Education graduate program. The option(s) you pursue depends upon your educational and professional background, as well as your future career plans.

**Reading Certificate (Reading and Literacy Added Authorization)**. The Reading Certificate (13 units) provides outstanding expertise in literacy instruction and prepares students to assume school-level responsibilities in literacy leadership. The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing requires documentation of three years of teaching experience and a clear California teaching credential after coursework completion in order to be eligible to receive the Certificate. This teaching experience may be accrued prior to, during, or after enrollment in graduate studies.

Students may apply to EITHER the distance education or traditional, face-to-face Reading Certificate program. The distance education program is designed to be completed in two summers (two courses per summer), and requires attendance at regularly scheduled online, live class sessions. Students must be able to submit assignments and video of intervention instruction electronically when completing the distance education Reading Certificate program. The traditional Reading Certificate program requires completion of one or two courses in each of three academic year semesters.

- **TE 635 (3 units)** Introduction to Assessment of Reading/Language Arts
- **TE 636 (3 units)** Advanced Assessment of Reading/Language Arts
- **TE 637 (4 units)** Instructional Strategies for Reading/Language
- **TE 639 (3 units)** Literacy and Language
Reading Specialist Credential and Master of Arts in Reading Education. Individuals may pursue the Reading Specialist Credential alone (32 units), the Master's in Reading Education (35 units), or a combined program preparing the candidate to receive both the Reading Specialist Credential and the Master's degree (38 units). Students who do not already hold a Master's degree, whose career plans may take them out of California, or who desire to pursue Ph.D. study at some future date often elect the combined program.

The state also requires documentation of three years of teaching experience as well as a clear California teaching credential in order to be eligible to receive the Reading Specialist Credential from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Teaching experience may be accrued prior to, during, or after enrollment in graduate studies. International teaching experience outside of the United States cannot be used to satisfy the requirement for three years of teaching experience.

If you have taught in another setting, but do not hold a valid California teaching credential, you may pursue the Master's Degree in Reading Education. Completion of the degree will enable you to work in a number of literacy-related settings, including community colleges and centers for adult learning, or to continue further advanced academic study. It is strongly recommended that you consult with the program advisor regarding completion of education-related courses (such as a methods course in the teaching of reading) prior to enrollment for the Master’s degree if you do not have teaching experience.

Each of the courses for the Reading Certificate, Reading Specialist Credential, and Master’s degree is briefly described below. Please note: Although there is some flexibility in the order in which courses can be taken, many of these courses are intended to be taken in sequence. You will meet with the program advisor, Dr. Sharan Gibson, to develop your own program of study (POS) as you begin the program. Courses are offered as often as is possible based on students’ current needs, but every course is generally not offered every semester. Please keep your POS at hand so that you can refer to it as you register for courses each semester. You should also consult with the program advisor for all alterations in your POS throughout your program.

Reading Specialist Credential
- **TE 635 (3 units)** Introduction to Assessment of Reading/Language Arts
- **TE 636 (3 units)** Advanced Assessment of Reading/Language Arts
- **TE 637 (4 units)** Instructional Strategies for Reading/Language
- **TE 639 (3 units)** Literacy and Language
- **TE 530 (3 units)** Children’s/Adolescents’ Literature
- **TE 631 (3 units)** Seminar in Language Arts
- **TE 633 (3 unit)** Leadership in Literacy Education
- **TE 634 (4 units)** Seminar in Research Investigations in Reading
- **TE 640 (3 units)** Planning for Teaching and Assessment in Writing
- **TE 736 (3 units)** Field Experience as a Reading/Language Arts Specialist
**MA in Reading and Language Arts**

**All of the above courses (with the exception of TE 633, which is not required for the MA degree), plus the following courses:**

ED 795 A  
ED 795 B

---

**TE 530 (3 units) Children’s/Adolescents’ Literature**
Survey of children’s/adolescents’ literature and its incorporation into the classroom curriculum.

**TE 631 (3 units) Seminar in Language Arts**
Advanced study of problems in teaching language arts. The study of scientific research and application to the field.

**TE 633 (3 unit) Leadership in Literacy Education**
(Prerequisite: TE 637.) Working with adult learners in professional development and exploring the roles of the Reading Specialist. Planning, presenting, and evaluating professional development activities in literacy education for teachers at the K-12 and/or community college level.

**TE 634 (4 units) Seminar in Research Investigations in Reading and the Language Arts**
(Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.) Emphasis on interpreting, evaluating, conducting, and implementing findings of research and evaluation in reading and language arts.

**TE 635 (3 units) Introduction to Assessment of Reading/Language Arts**
(Prerequisite: Valid teaching credential; consent of instructor; and a course in methods and materials for teaching reading). Introduction to formal and informal assessment of students’ strengths and weaknesses in literacy development. Involves literacy assessment of actual student clients and reporting results to parents.

**TE 636 (3 units) Advanced Assessment of Reading/Language Arts**
(Prerequisite: Valid teaching credential; and TE 635 or concurrent enrollment). Advanced formal and informal assessment of students' strengths and weaknesses in literacy development. Involves literacy assessment of clients at the SDSU Community Reading Clinic and reporting of results to parents. Course held at the SDSU Literacy Center, 4283 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite 200, San Diego, CA. 92105.

**TE 637 (4 units) Instructional Strategies for Reading/Language**
(Prerequisite: TE 635 and TE 636.) Supervised experience utilizing instructional strategies in individual and small group settings. This course meets twice a week (typically M/W or T/Th) for both seminar and tutoring. Students tutor a client in a supervised, collaborative setting.
TE 639 (3 units) Literacy and Language  
(Prerequisite: TE 930 or 933.) Theories of literacy and methods for developing literacy in language, reading, and writing. Instructional methods and assessment techniques for children and adults, including English language learners.

OR TE 677 (3 units) Research Based Pedagogy for Diverse Learners  
Research based pedagogy for diverse learners. Examination of instructional strategies across disciplines and grade levels.

TE 640 (3 units) Planning for Teaching and Assessment in Writing  
(Prerequisite: Teaching experience.) Comprehensive writing instruction in the context of the interactive language arts. Development of plans for curriculum and instruction in diverse classrooms. Examination of multiple assessments and how they inform instruction in K-12 classrooms.

TE 736 (3 units) Field Experience as a Reading/Language Arts Specialist  
(Prerequisite: 18 units of core courses; TE 637). Advanced practicum for the Reading Specialist. This course includes a seminar session once a week, including observation of colleague’s lessons in a behind-the-glass classroom. Students tutor a client at the SDSU Community Reading Clinic twice a week (once during the seminar session and once at a time arranged with the client). Course held at the SDSU Literacy Center, 4283 El Cajon Boulevard, Suite 200, San Diego, CA. 92105.

ED 795A (3 units) Research Seminar  
(Prerequisites: Education 690 (TE 634 in the graduate Reading program) and advancement to candidacy for the Master of Arts degree in education.) Planning and writing about an action research study undertaken in your own setting. Master’s project course. Completion of TE 634 strongly recommended prior to ED 795 A. Cannot be taken simultaneously with ED 795 B.

ED 795B (3 units) Research Seminar  
(Prerequisites: Education 690 (TE 634 in the graduate Reading program) and advancement to candidacy for the Master of Arts degree in education; ED 795 A.) Implementing, evaluating, and reporting an action research study undertaken in your own setting.