The Master of Arts in Reading program prepares students to seek knowledge and experience about reading processes and practices. These evolving scholars are encouraged to be leaders, pursue knowledge and engage in problem solving related to reading/writing processes and practices. The graduates of the Reading MA program will be able to function more effectively as classroom teachers who know how to make important instructional decisions for students, and as school leaders by directing reading programs, staff development and curriculum development at the school level.

The University of Northern Colorado is the only institution in Colorado authorized to confer the degree MA Reading. Where many institutions offer a mix of generalist core classes and some literacy classes, our program is made up entirely of literacy courses with the addition of a UNC-required research course.

Since 1889, the University of Northern Colorado has been the ultimate source for expert teacher preparation in Colorado. Today, we continue that excellence with renowned faculty who connect the world of theory to the world of practice, including constant contact with school leaders to collaborate, consult and research.

This program is among the educator programs at UNC accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, which are also approved for licensure by the Colorado State Board of Education and authorized by the Colorado Department of Higher Education. UNC is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Degrees and endorsements awarded through extended off-campus programs provide the same rigorous outcomes and academic recognition as those earned on-campus.
Designed for Working Teachers

This program is offered on a teacher-friendly schedule including weekend and evening courses, as well as two courses each summer. This program can be completed in two years. Because teaching literacy depends on highly personal relationships, the program faculty invests in a live, face-to-face curriculum where teaching methods and techniques can be modeled while also allowing for participation in cooperative learning settings.

Reading Master of Arts Degree (33 Credit Hours)

This Reading Master of Arts degree will make teachers competitive for many reading-oriented district and school positions, such as Literacy Specialist, Reading Intervention Teacher or Literacy Coach. For classroom teachers, ongoing growth in demand for individualized reading and writing instruction in Response to Intervention and new standards make reading an area of study that will have a big impact on classrooms in the coming years.

Reading Teacher (K-Grade 12) Endorsement (29 Credit Hours)

As part of the Reading Master of Arts, or as an endorsement only-option, students can attain the Reading Teacher (K-Grade 12) endorsement. By completing the endorsement/MA credits, students fulfill the requirements for the institutional recommendation as a K-12 Reading Teacher. Students wishing to obtain the Colorado Reading Teacher Endorsement must provide evidence of two or more-years of teaching experience in an accredited and/or established elementary, middle or secondary school while holding a type A or teaching license equivalent certificate. Students must also pass a State of Colorado administered proficiency examination (PLACE – Reading). Students should contact the UNC School of Teacher Education (970-351-2908) or visit www.MAReading.com for information.

Required Courses

- EDRD 611 Language, Literacy and Cognitive Development (3)
- EDRD 612 Reading in the Elementary Schools (3)
- EDRD 614 Literature for Children, Adolescents and Young Adults (3)
- EDRD 617 Evaluation and Improvements of Literacy Teaching and Learning (4)
- EDRD 620 Reading in the Middle and Secondary Schools (3)
- EDRD 642 Teaching the Writing Process in Schools (3)
- EDRD 645 Reading Research (3)
- EDRD 670 Directing a School-Wide Reading/Literacy Program (3)
- EDRD 692 Clinical Practicum in Literacy Coaching (4)
- EDRD 693 Capstone Reading Seminar (1)
- SRM 600 Introduction to Graduate Research (master’s requirement) (3)

* Required for those seeking the master’s degree

Eligibility

You must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, with a G.P.A. of 3.0 or better on the most recent 60 hours of undergraduate coursework. If you do not meet the G.P.A. requirement, you must submit a score of 297 on the GRE combined verbal and quantitative sections.

How to Apply

Step 1: Contact the off-campus program coordinator with any questions. Periodically the program hosts live information meetings which will be posted at www.MAReading.com or on the Reading department Facebook page: UNCG Reading Programs.

Step 2: Fill out the School of Teacher Education (STE) Application online. Visit www.unco.edu/teach/gradapply.html.

Step 3: Fill out the online UNCG Graduate School Application and submit the required application materials to the Graduate School. The graduate school application link is www.unco.edu/grad/admissions.

More contact information is available for each department in the “Whom Do I Contact” section on the back page.

“As an older student, I wondered if going back to school would be difficult as I tackled new technologies and textbooks, but none of that! The program was designed so that I eased right back into the swing of being a student.”

— Kimberli A. Bontempo, Master’s of Reading graduate, First Grade Teacher, Poudre School District, Fort Collins, CO