Western Michigan University’s Literacy Studies (M.A.) program prepares teacher leaders in Literacy Development K-12.

Program completion leads to a State of Michigan Reading Specialist/Literacy Coach Endorsement.

Provides a comprehensive professional development program to meet the needs in diverse classrooms for continuous literacy instruction in K-12 settings, based on current theory and research.

Prepares teacher leaders to engage in collegial dialogue, evaluate literacy initiatives and programs, and meet state and district policies.

Provides opportunities to work in the McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic with K-12 students from the wider Kalamazoo community.

Prepares leaders to support fellow educators in their efforts to improve student achievement through the effective use of literacy across the curriculum.
Literacy Studies (M.A.)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
Our Literacy Studies faculty engage in research and work with area schools and districts to promote quality K-12 literacy development and instruction in areas such as emergent literacy, content literacy, English language learners, new literacies, diversity, and inclusion.

Our program spans a variety of topics relating to all areas of literacy (reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, thinking) including: comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, voice, genre, and critical analysis. We promote an understanding of the relationship between theory and practice and stress the importance of the connections between assessment and instruction.

Admissions
The Literacy Studies faculty review applications as they are submitted. Applications should include two letters of recommendation and a 1,500 word essay about the candidates’ purposes for pursuing the master’s degree. A GRE score is not required. All application requirements are noted on the department website: wmich.edu/specialed/academics/literacy-masters

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
Literacy Studies may provide 1 to 2 graduate assistantships per semester. Such full-time graduate student(s) would be working with faculty on READING HORIZONS, an international literacy journal published through the McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic, NCATE accreditation data, or supporting faculty research and teaching.

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Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 masters degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.