How long has the program existed?
The online option of the Master of Education degree program in Reading and Language was developed in 2004. It is based on our three years of successful experience with an educational administration program online and is a response to requests by school systems for innovative assistance in preparing a greater number of highly qualified candidates for reading specialist positions. The online course syllabi and faculty are identical to those for the on campus courses.

Is the program completely online, or do I need to visit the campus?
The entire 30 credit program can be completed online. However students may choose to take a mix of online and on campus courses. Visitation to the campus is welcomed, but not required.

What type of computer software is required? What is the format of a course?
Access to the internet via Netscape or Internet Explorer is required. To view the format of a course, visit http://continuinged.uml.edu/online. Click on “Test Drive A Course” link, located in the left column. This provides a comprehensive review of typical online course.

Do I need to be a certified teacher to enter this program?
If you seek initial licensure as a reading specialist in the state of Massachusetts, current regulations require that you first hold initial licensure as an elementary or secondary English teacher. Then, in addition to completing all courses in the approved program, Massachusetts also requires that you take and pass the Communications and Literacy and Reading Specialist portions of the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure.

Does this program meet requirements for licensure in Massachusetts?
Yes, in February 2005, the Massachusetts Department of Education approved the University of Massachusetts Lowell’s Masters Degree in Reading and Language Program as meeting Professional Licensure standards for Early Childhood, Elementary, Moderate Special Needs and Teacher of English Language Learner Licenses in Massachusetts.

I am a certified teacher and live outside of Massachusetts. Is this program recognized by my state?
Since each state has its own certification regulations, we strongly suggest that you confirm with your local Department of Education that the coursework fulfills the certification requirements and to determine if there are any additional requirements.

How long does it take to complete the degree requirements?
The program takes approximately 2 - 3 years to complete on a part-time basis, taking one or two courses per semester, fall, spring and summer. Candidates have a maximum of five years to complete the degree. The final practicum is project based and ordinarily can be completed in your current place of employment.

What is the cost of the program? Is financial aid available?
The cost per three-credit course is $1320. Massachusetts and out of state residents pay the same fee. Financial aid may be available to matriculated students enrolled in 6 or more credits per semester. You may contact the Financial Assistance Office at 978-934-4220 for more information.

How do I register?
Students must register with the Continuing Studies office by telephone, fax, mail or in person. You can contact Continuing Studies by telephone at 978-934-2700. Complete registration information is available online at http://continuinged.uml.edu/general/registration.htm

When is the application deadline?
We admit students for each semester, fall, spring, and summer. However, in order to be admitted for a particular semester, your materials should be received at least six weeks before that semester begins in order to allow for processing and for the Admissions Committee to act on your application.

**What is the application process?**
Applications can be found online at: [http://www.uml.edu/grad](http://www.uml.edu/grad). Please note that the Graduate School of Education requires results from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) to accompany the application packet. Also required for the application are three letters of recommendation, transcripts from all colleges and universities previously attended, and a one to two page statement of purpose.

**How many credits can I transfer from another institution?**
A total of 12 credits may be transferred into the program; this includes courses taken here prior to matriculation. Once you apply, you may submit an academic petition to request transfer of credits from another accredited institution. You must fill out an academic petition and send a copy of the course syllabus or catalog description along with the official transcripts showing grade earned in the course. Courses taken as part of another degree program are not eligible for transfer. The academic petition and the appropriate documentation should be sent to the Graduate School of Education, 61 Wilder Street, 5th Floor O’Leary Library, Lowell, MA 01854.

**Can I take classes before applying officially to the program?**
Students may take up to 4 classes (12 credits) prior to submitting a formal application for the program. These courses will count as transfer credit if and when you choose to apply.

**Is there a recommended sequence of courses?**
Courses may be taken in any sequence, with exception of the practicum which must be completed as the final course.

**I have never taken an online course, how do I get started?**
Complete information regarding how to prepare for an online course, including a sample of an online course, is available at: [http://continuinged.uml.edu/online/123.htm](http://continuinged.uml.edu/online/123.htm)

**Is U Mass Lowell nationally accredited?**
Yes, The University of Massachusetts Lowell was reaccredited by the National Council Association of Teacher Education (NCATE) in 2003.

**How many students are participating?**
138 students are enrolled in seven courses during the spring 2004 semester.

**What courses will be offered in the coming semesters?**
You can find our course schedule online at: [http://gse.uml.edu/gse/courses.htm](http://gse.uml.edu/gse/courses.htm)

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For Additional Information, Email EdOffice@uml.edu  
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