Faculty:
The ESU graduate reading faculty maintain a strong commitment to working together and combining their various talents in reading. Faculty work with staff in ESU’s Department of Technology and Computing Services (TCS) and the Office of Distance Education to update course delivery to meet the requirements of changing technologies and needs of students. Faculty keep close ties with graduate students through academic advising, coursework, and in professional associations. Faculty communicate with students on a regular basis through campus visits, e-mail, phone calls, and the communication technologies available with online delivery.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND PROGRAM ADMISSION:
Information can be found at www.emporia.edu/earlychd/graduate/msmte.htm
Phone Contact: 620-341-5750

GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICATION:
To apply for one of the three options, ESU online application information can be found at www.emporia.edu/grad/appinstr.htm
Toll free #: 1-800-950-4723
ESU’s Tradition in Preparing Teachers and Reading Specialists

Emporia State University (ESU) was founded in 1863 when the Kansas Legislature established the Kansas State Normal School. Excellence in teacher preparation has remained a focus through the decades. One in every six classroom teachers in Kansas is an ESU graduate. Recent recognitions include:

- In 2004, the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) reported that the ESU Master Teacher – Reading Specialist program successfully met all standards for re-accreditation.
- In 2006, the National Council on Teacher Quality, in a review of a random sample of 72 reading programs, recognized ESU in the first tier (11 colleges/universities) for the teaching of reading.
- In 2009, the International Reading Association awarded ESU the Certificate of Distinction for the elementary education reading program.

Reading Specialist Program

In the 1960’s, ESU began preparing reading specialists through an accredited program in Kansas. Today, the Reading Specialist program is offered online and designed to:

- provide the coursework and requirements for a Kansas Initial School Specialist License – Reading Specialist through an accredited program. The ESU Reading Specialist Program is accredited by the Kansas State Department of Education and NCATE.
- provide specialized training for teachers to work with children in the classroom or in reading programs.
- enhance a teacher’s expertise in reading to serve as a district- or building-level leader as an instructional consultant, reading teacher, or literacy coach.
- provide coursework that may be transferred to other states with the approval of the licensing state.
- prepare educators for teaching reading and language arts in a community college.
- provide master’s level preparation for doctoral programs in reading and language arts.

ESU Reading Specialist Online Program Options

Option A: Master Teacher – Reading Specialist (Kansas Reading Specialist License)

To be licensed in Kansas as a reading specialist, the teacher must hold a current professional teaching license, master’s degree, and pass the Praxis (0300) Reading Specialist. All degree requirements must be completed in seven years. Out-of-state applicants seeking a program for licensure must confirm the acceptance of the ESU program in their home state. Master Teacher- Reading Specialist course requirements may be found at www.emporia.edu/earlychd/graduate/msmte.htm.

Option B: Reading Specialist Licensure Only (Kansas)

For teachers already holding a master’s degree in reading or a related field, the Reading Specialist Licensure Only program requires teachers to take the reading courses listed on the master’s degree, hold a professional teaching license, and to pass the Praxis (0300) Reading Specialist. All course requirements must be completed in seven years.

Option C: Licensure Renewal Non-Degree Seeking

Three of the courses (EL 721, EL 723, EL 725) may be taken for licensure renewal in Kansas. When applying ESU courses to out-of-state licensure renewals, students must confirm acceptance of the coursework with the state’s licensing office.