ACADEMIC ALERT #2004-13

DATE: **July, 2004**
DECISION: **National College of Education (NCE)**

New Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) Degree in Reading and Language

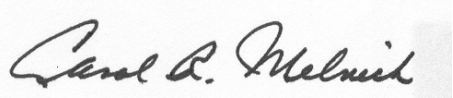
Rationale
The Ed.S. in Reading and Language is designed to attract graduates from masters' programs in Reading and Language, Language and Literacy or other equivalent programs who desire further coursework in literacy education, but do not want to pursue a doctorate. The degree program is intended to attract teachers who are certified reading specialists by providing them with in-depth coursework in literacy and 30 hours beyond the masters.

Program Authorizations: The University currently has authorization to offer the Ed.S. in Reading and Language in the following Illinois regions: Chicago, North Suburban, West Suburban, and South Metro.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: July 22, 2004

CONTACT: Dr. Peter Fisher, faculty, Reading and Language Programs, ext. 2379

SIGNATURE



Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.
Vice Provost

Admission Requirements

All applicants for the Educational Specialist degree must hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution. Admission decisions are based on the following evidence: the completed application form, the applicant's academic record, four letters of reference, scores from the General Aptitude Section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), a written statement, and an interview.

Program Description

The Educational Specialist degree (Ed.S) in Reading and Language is a post-masters degree designed to meet the needs of school leaders who wish to deepen their knowledge and expertise in literacy. All applicants must hold a master's degree with an emphasis in reading/literacy from a regionally accredited institution and wish to continue advanced study. **The minimum total hours required for the degree is 30 semester hours.**

Educational Specialist (Ed.S.) Reading and Language Program Course Requirements

Course Code	Course Title	Semester Hours
RLD600	Language, Linguistics and Literacy	3
RLD601	Orthography and Word Recognition	3
RLD602	Reading Comprehension: Research and Applications	3
RLD603	Historical Issues in Literacy Research	2
RLD606	Instruction and Staff Development in Reading and Language	3
RLD607	Theory and Research in Writing	3
Total Required Hours		**17**

Approved Electives: 13 SH

Any courses with an RLD, RLR, RLL, or RLW prefix at the 500-600 level may be used as electives. No workshop hours can be counted towards the degree. No more than 6 semester hours of coursework in literacy at the graduate level from other accredited institutions may be transferred in and are subject to advisor approval. Electives to total 13 semester hours.

The following courses are prerequisites for the 600 level courses above, and may be counted as part of the 13 semester hours of approved electives.

Course Code	Course Title	Semester Hours
RLL533 *	Introduction to Linguistics: Language and Literacy	2
RLW541 *	Teaching Writing	2
RLR501 *	Teaching Beginning Reading	3
RLR502 *	Teaching Comprehension and Content Literacy	3

*Or equivalent graduate level courses with the consent of advisor.

Additional Program Requirements

All candidates will complete a comprehensive exam.

Implementation:

Offices of Admissions, Registrar, enrollment and recruitment staff, and faculty advisors need to be knowledgeable of this new program.

The Ed.S. in Reading and Language needs to be built into Banner and curriculum rules need to be written.

Marketing materials need to be developed.

The Ed.S. in Reading and Language needs to be included in the next catalogue 2005-2006. The program coordinator needs to rewrite the catalog copy as soon as this alert is posted and submit to the Office of the Registrar and Office of the Provost.

The program coordinator must notify NLU's Director of Articulation and Compliance in which of the four authorized locations the Ed.S. in Reading and Language will be offered. The Director of Articulation and Compliance in turn must notify IBHE of the location(s) prior to this new program being offered.