

M.Ed. Reading 2006

I. Mission/Purpose:

In addition to the mission of the Department of Education, the mission of the reading education program is to prepare reading teachers and reading consultants who possess a strong knowledge of children's literature, have the ability to teach reading across a range of levels, can accurately diagnosis and work with struggling readers, and can effectively work with a variety of methods and materials to build literacy knowledge. The program also conveys the idea that reading education is viewed as enhancing and building literacy.

II. Expected Results:

- 90% of students taking Praxis II will pass the test.
- 85% of students each semester will demonstrate at least an *acceptable* mastery of each International Reading Association standard assessed.

III. Assessment Tools

- PRAXIS II
- Scoring Guides assessing IRA standards

IV. Assessment Results/Actions Taken

--Praxis II results show that 100% of the twelve students taking the exam successfully passed it. One of those candidates did retake the test and passed on the second attempt. Test results will continue to be monitored.

--After extensive revision, three new project scoring guides were developed and implemented during spring 2006. These guides assessed whether or not were candidates were able to demonstrate mastery of International Reading Association standards. Results revealed at least 85% of the students completing the projects were able to achieve an acceptable or exemplary score on all standards except for a few standards assessed on *Assessment No. 5 Packet for Diagnostic Testing/Remediation Teaching*. On a few standards, only 80% of candidates assessed were able to demonstrate mastery. On that particular assessment, 85% or more of the candidates were able to perform at the "developing" level. Since this was the first semester the new scoring guides were used, the reading division will reexamine the scoring guides during the next year when more data has been gathered to determine if modification is necessary in the construction of the assessments or in the teaching of the material.

Resources Needed:

LiveText, which will be implemented next year, will provide more data on the program. Continuous support will be necessary to implement the program with students and faculty.

It would also be extremely helpful if a central unit at The Citadel would be responsible for sending out a survey to all education graduates and compiling the information received. This would provide even more information about the program.

V. Major Actions and Issues

During the year, town hall meetings were held each semester with students pursuing a Master of Education in Reading or reading certification.

Also, a reading advisory board met regularly to examine any issues within the division. Extensive time was required in preparation for the NCATE visit. This board is currently being restructured to include more people in literacy leadership positions in the districts. Beginning 2006-2007, a new board will meet once a semester to provide insight and comments on the program.

The reading program experienced a major revision, and as of fall 2006, it will be the Master of Education in Literacy Education. The new program will meet all the requirements for IRA accreditation, represent a reduction in course hours, contain more literacy coursework, and represent more of a holistic philosophy. The 2006 catalogue will include these changes.

VI. Major Goals and Objectives for 2006-2007

In the fall of 2006, the reading division will be writing and submitting a report to IRA in efforts to continue accreditation of the program.