

**Comprehensive Exam for Online M.Ed. Reading Education (P-5 or 6-12 New and Digital Literacies) at the University of Georgia in the Department of Language and Literacy Education**  
**(Revised June 26, 2017)**

**The Task**

The online M.Ed. in Reading Education degree program with emphases in new and digital literacies for grades P-5 or 6-12 has as its goal to educate teachers and other literacy professional in ways that advance students as readers in the broadest sense from printed materials to digital multimedia environments.

You must submit your final exam during the semester in which you plan to graduate. The examination format is a multimodal composition with the student's choice of online or software platform (e.g., wiki, blog, presentation, etc.), and design (e.g., graphics, images, audio, video, etc.). Students are encouraged to think about and work on this composition throughout their program.

In the multimodal composition be sure to address the following:

- Briefly describe your pedagogy and philosophy of teaching<sup>1</sup>, broadly speaking and specific to reading, when you began the online M.Ed. program. You are to complete this and submit it to your advisor prior to the drop-add deadline in your first term.
- Briefly provide a rationale for the digital platform you selected for this multimodal composition. Explain why you found this platform the most appropriate to meet the requirements of this multimodal comprehensive exam.
- Synthesize your philosophical and/or pedagogical developments related to literacy instruction. Discuss three or four developments in your synthesis. Use course artifacts and evidence; however, do not organize your synthesis in a course-by-course manner. Make sure to provide details to support your statements. Four guiding questions are:
  1. How has your coursework (e.g. readings, class activities and projects, and experiences such as tutoring, etc.) contributed to these three or four developments? If desired or applicable, you can include examples from your classroom, providing parental or guardian permission is obtained for any student work. Please use pseudonyms for all names.
  2. What research and theorists have contributed to your developments and how have they contributed?
  3. How have digital literacies contributed to your major developments?
  4. How has your knowledge of issues of cultural diversity and equity contributed to your major developments?
- Discuss how this degree program has prepared you to be a professional in the field of literacy. How do you see yourself contributing to the literacy profession in the next five years?

**Parameters of the Multimodal Comprehensive Exam**

In completing this multimodal composition final examination you ....

- are advised to begin drafting the multimodal composition at any point in your coursework;
- need to use a platform for the multimodal composition that faculty can access for purposes of evaluation;
- can consult and/or form writing groups with other M.Ed. students;
- can consult with UGA faculty only about general questions related to the exam process. You cannot consult any UGA faculty about content; and

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• <sup>1</sup> Pedagogy is Greek in origin and literally means to lead the child. It has come to refer to the approach or mode of instruction a teacher uses. A philosophy of teaching refers to what you believe about how you teach and why you believe it.

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- must use APA 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. style for in-text citations and references.

**Submission and Evaluation Process**

You must submit to your advisor and the program coordinator either your multimodal comprehensive exam or a link to your exam by the semester due dates listed below

- Fall Semester: 9:00 AM EST, November 1
- Spring Semester: 9:00 AM EST, April 1
- Summer Semester: 9:00AM EST, June 1

Failure to meet the applicable submission deadline will result in you having to wait until the next semester to take your comprehensive exam.

Each comprehensive exam will be evaluated by two members of the *Literacies and Children's Literature* faculty who are not the student's advisor. Using the rubric generated by program faculty found on the following page, each evaluator will designate one of four evaluations of your paper

1. *Accept with Distinction*
2. *Accept*
3. *Revise and Resubmit*
4. *Unacceptable*

If two faculty members disagree, a third member will be called in to enter a deciding evaluation.

The program coordinator will send you the faculty members' evaluations of your comprehensive exam and any other required information or directions.

In you receive an *Accept with Distinction* or *Accept*, no further action on your part is required.

If you receive a *Revise and Resubmit*, you will have up to two weeks to make any recommended changes and resubmit them to the program coordinator for a second review. Failure to meet the revision deadline will automatically result in your final evaluation being changed to *Unacceptable*. You will have only one opportunity to revise your final examination. If your resubmission does not receive an *Accept with Distinction* or *Accept*, then you will be exited from your degree program.

If you receive an *Unacceptable* evaluation, you must wait until the next semester to retake your comprehensive exam. You will be given specific advice from the faculty evaluators on how to revise your work. You will then have only one opportunity to retake the examination and gain either an *Accept with Distinction* or *Accept* determination. Failure to do so will result in your being exited from the program.

See the following page for your comprehensive exam rubric.

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*Online M.Ed. Comprehensive Exam Rubric (Content Rev. 06/2017)*

<b>Throughout the Comprehensive Examination</b>		
<b>Digital Platform</b>	<p><i>Clear and convincing explanation of why your selected platform is the best option to meet the requirements of this multimodal comprehensive exam.</i></p> <p>3 = Excellent fit with criteria 2 = Good fit with criteria 1 = Partial fit with criteria 0 = Lacking fit with criteria</p>	<b>___/3 pts.</b>
<b>Digital Affordances</b>	<p><i>Knowledge and effective use of digital literacies throughout the composition is evident. All tools and platforms shared as evidence are accessible to the Exam Review Committee.</i></p> <p>5 = Excellent fit with criteria 4-3 = (Very) Good fit with criteria 2-1 = Partial fit with criteria 0 = Lacking fit with criteria</p>	<b>___/5 pts.</b>
<b>Original Thoughts and Conventions</b>	<p><i>The writing reads seamlessly with original insights gained from program of study. All headings or titles accurately reflect the content. None or very few errors of spelling and punctuation exist. APA 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. formatting for in-text citations and references is used correctly.</i></p> <p>5 = Excellent fit with criteria 4-3 = (Very) Good fit with criteria 2-1 = Partial fit with criteria 0 = Lacking fit with criteria</p>	<b>___/5 pts.</b>

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<b>Content and Evidence</b>		
<p><b>Pedagogy &amp; Philosophy of Teaching Prior To Starting This M.Ed. Program</b></p>	<p><i>Comprehensive discussion of pedagogy and philosophy of teaching (in general and related to teaching) includes illustrative examples and details.</i></p> <p><i>[Note: This needs to be written before you begin your coursework and submitted to your advisor before Drop/Add ends in your first semester of coursework.]</i></p> <p>3 = Excellent fit with criteria            2 = Good fit with criteria            1 = Partial fit with criteria            0 = Lacking fit with criteria</p>	<p><b>___/3 pts.</b></p>
<p><b>Synthesis of Learning: Three or Four Major Developments</b></p>	<p><i>Synthesis of learning is organized into three or four developments and is not conveyed in a course-by-course format. The developments are relevant to the M.Ed. degree and content of program of study and illustrate original thinking. Specific evidence is provided and that evidence illustrates and supports the developments shared. Evidence can include links to partial or complete assignments, screenshots of work or excerpts of work, classroom application artifacts, etc.</i></p> <p>6-5 = Excellent fit with criteria            4-3 = (Very) Good fit with criteria            2-1 = Partial fit with criteria            0 = Lacking fit with criteria</p>	<p><b>___/6 pts.</b></p>

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<p><b>Future as a Literacy Professional and Anticipated Contributions in the Next Five Years</b></p>	<p><i>Discussion of your future as a literacy professional and your anticipated contributions to the literacy profession is detailed and explicitly connects to the content of the degree program.</i></p> <p>3 = Excellent fit with criteria                  2 = Good fit with criteria                  1 = Partial fit with criteria                  0 = Lacking fit with criteria</p>	<p><b>___/3 pts.</b></p>
<p><b>RESULTS</b></p>	<p><b>25-23 = Accept with Distinction</b>  <b>22-20 = Accept</b>  <b>19-13 = Revise and Resubmit</b>  <b>12-0 = Unacceptable</b></p>	<p><b>___/25 pts.</b></p>