THE COLLEGE OF SAINT ROSE 432 WESTERN AVENUE ALBANY, NY 12203

Frequently Asked Questions Graduate Study in Literacy

Welcome to graduate study in the Literacy Program at the College of Saint Rose. This information has been compiled by our faculty to clarify questions that often arise as students join our program. We anticipate that this handout will be a helpful reminder of important requirements as you progress through your program.

- **Q.** What are the differences between the two concentrations Birth-6 and grades 5-12?
- **A.** There are two differences. Students in both programs take an advanced developmental literacy course that matches their grade-level needs. Students in the Birth-6 program take LRC 520; students in the 5-12 program take LRC 521. The second difference is that as you work with clients through this program (LRC 540, LRC 545, LRC 550 or LRC 551, and LRC 552 or LRC 553), you will work with clients who are within your certification area. Regarding the clinical practicum requirement, students in the Birth-6 program take LRC 550, while 5-12 students take LRC 551. In the School Based Practicum, students in B-6 take LRC 552 and work in an elementary school. Students in 5-12 take LRC 553 and work in either a middle or high school.
- **Q.** Do program courses need to be taken in a specific order?
- A. Yes, there are certain pre-requisites or co-requisites in the program. All master's-seeking students in programs are expected to take EPY 500 within the first six credits of the program. In addition, regardless of whether you are in degree program or a certificate-only program, courses should follow this sequence:
 - LRC 540 (Diagnosis) before LRC 545
 - LRC 545 (Remediation) Before LRC 550/551
 - LRC 550 or LRC 551 (Clinical Practicum)
 - LRC 520/521 with or before LRC 552/553
 - LRC 567 with or before LRC 552/553
 - LRC 590 (Seminar) and LRC 999 (comprehensive examination) final semester
 - For those in certification-only programs, practica should be taken in your final semester
- **Q.** Are courses readily available?
- **A.** In general, yes, classes are available as students need and want them. Program faculty members monitor course needs semester by semester, and schedule additional sections of courses as needed. However, there is no guarantee regarding course availability.
- Q. What is the difference between Clinical Practicum (LRC 550 or LRC 551) and School Based Practicum (LRC 552 or LRC 553)?
- A. For the Clinical Practicum, you individually tutor two students who have difficulty in the area of literacy. The tutoring takes place in the Emery Clinic at St. Rose. The clients are arranged for you. For the School Based Clinic, you deliver small group instruction in a classroom under the supervision of a college faculty member. The placements are arranged by the Literacy Program.

- **Q.** What are the program's academic standards?
- **A.** If you receive a grade of C in a course, you must retake the course and earn a grade of B or better. A second grade of C will lead to dismissal from the program. A single grade of F in a course leads to dismissal as well. Also, a student may only repeat a zero-credit workshop or comprehensive exam once if a grade of F has been received.

There are also academic standards set within the program. A student who receives a grade of C in EPY 500 must retake that course in the next semester. Likewise, to move on from LRC 540 to LRC 545, you must receive a grade of B or better. The same requirements apply to moving from LRC 545 to LRC 550 or LRC 551.

- **Q.** May I transfer courses into the program?
- **A.** Yes, you may transfer up to 6 credits from another institution or 9 credits of coursework from St. Rose into the program, provided the course work was completed within the previous six years and it is found to be comparable to program courses.
- **Q.** May I transfer in courses taken at other colleges after I begin the program at Saint Rose?
- **A.** Yes. However, you must obtain prior approval for taking courses elsewhere and the transfer of credits will only apply to courses not offered at Saint Rose.
- **Q.** How important is the comprehensive examination?
- **A.** As an assessment of your literacy knowledge and skills, the comprehensive examination is essential and must be passed to complete degree requirements. College policy determines you will have two opportunities to pass this examination.
- **Q.** What is the requirement regarding workshops?
- A. There are four noncredit workshops that must be completed within the first six hours of your program. They are EDU 602 (violence prevention), EDU 603 (child abuse), EDU 606 (AIDS/HIV), and EPY 637 (substance abuse). Many students have fulfilled all or some of these as undergraduates or through some other means. Ask your advisor to review your records to determine if these workshop requirements may be waived for you.
- **Q.** Are there any program deadlines I should keep in mind?
- **A.** Yes. You need to apply for your degree in the first week of your final semester. For NYS certification, you should apply to the Registrar at the beginning of your final month of study.
- **Q.** There is a field experience requirement for the Practicum (LRC 550 or LRC 551). What is that like?
- **A.** You be observing a literacy specialist or specialists provide remediation to individuals or small groups of students. This may take place in the school where you already work or in another school. The experience requires that you do 7 hours of observation, which is confirmed by a signature from specialist you work with. The form must be submitted to the course instructor before the end of the semester in order to complete the practicum coursework.
- **Q.** Is there a Content Specialty Test in literacy?
- **A.** Yes. If you plan to obtain NYS certification in literacy, you must take this test, which is offered many times during the year by the State Education Department. We recommend that you <u>not</u> wait to take this test until the last time it is offered in your final semester here at the college. Refer to the NYS Teacher Certification website for specific information.