



The Literacy, Language, and Culture PhD program is grounded in the commitment that reading, writing, language, and other literacy skills are essential to every aspect of human development and consciousness. Candidates study and research assets—communal, cultural, familial, instructional, and personal—critical to academic, personal, social, and human development and, in turn, effective schools. Candidates also study factors that put children, youth, and adults at a disadvantage in schools and society. This concentration prepares students to investigate literacy and literacy-related issues from multiple theoretical and philosophical perspectives with attention given to the individual level, school level, neighborhood or community level, and national and international levels, where expansive cultural concerns, such as community patterns, economics, gender, language, and ethnicity, are significant influences.

PROGRAM FACULTY

Alfred W. Tatum, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago

James R. Gavelek, Associate Professor, PhD, Washington State University

Kimberley Gomez, Associate Professor, PhD, University of Chicago

Kimberly Lawless, Professor, PhD, University of Connecticut

Yolanda Majors, Associate Professor, PhD, University of Iowa

Christine C. Pappas, Professor, PhD, Ohio State University

Taffy E. Raphael, Professor, PhD, University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana

Aria Razfar, Assistant Professor, PhD, University of California, Los Angeles

Flora V. Rodriguez-Brown, Professor, PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Cynthia Shanahan, Professor, PhD, University of Georgia

Timothy Shanahan, Professor, PhD, University of Delaware

William Teale, Professor, EdD, University of Virginia

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The LLC PhD program requires a minimum of 96 semester hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. Generally, a minimum of 64 semester hours are required beyond the master's degree. Some exceptions are made depending on the master's program. Specifically, this concentration includes an eight-hour core in literacy, language, and culture; a 20-hour research methods core; 20 to 44 hours of "selective" and elective courses appropriate to students' areas of specialization; an eight-hour research project; and a minimum of 16 hours of dissertation research. Final decisions concerning specific courses and the number of semester hours required of a student entering with a master's degree are determined by a student's doctoral program committee.

SPECIAL PROGRAM FEATURES

This program offers opportunities to study with scholars with a wide range of interests, including emergent literacy; adolescent and adult literacy; literacy in a second language; sociocultural theories of language, learning, and human development; culturally and linguistically responsive pedagogy; integrated science literacy; the effectiveness of technology in classrooms to improve reading achievement; the role of text and curriculum in the literacy development of students; new-media literacy development in minority populations; and improving schoolwide reading achievement. LLC faculty members are leading multiyear grant-funded projects related to their research interests, providing opportunities for doctoral students to nurture their research and scholarship.

RESULTS

Graduates of the LLC PhD program are highly sought after by other institutions of higher education. Some of our recent graduates have gone on to teach at the University of Maryland-College Park, University of Kentucky, and Purdue University. Additionally, many of our graduates take active leadership roles in professional international and national literacy organizations, including the International Reading Association and the National Council of Teachers of English, and are highly sought after by other public and private entities. Other graduates provide literacy leadership in schools and school districts across several regions of the United States.

CONTACT INFO

Dr. Alfred W. Tatum
Program Coordinator
312-413-3883
atatum1@uic.edu

Elise Wilson
Doctoral Programs Advisor
312-996-4594
ewilson@uic.edu