

READING CONTENT

REQUIREMENTS FOR MARYLAND TEACHERS

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<p>What are the reading requirements?</p>	<p>The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) requires all prospective and current Maryland teachers to take additional reading theory and methodology coursework for certification or recertification.</p>
<p>Why are reading courses necessary?</p>	<p>Because reading is an essential skill across all content areas and all grade levels, every teacher is challenged to promote literacy. Maryland School Assessment reading scores and performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading test underscore the need to ensure that every teacher is equipped with the tools needed to diagnose reading problems and help students become proficient readers.</p> <p>Reading coursework provides formal training in such areas as language development, phonics, cognitive responses to reading, and analysis of student performance. The state works closely with the higher education community to ensure that the content is tailored to meet teachers' needs.</p>
<p>What courses do teachers at the early childhood and elementary levels have to take?</p>	<p>The State Task Force on Reading recommended 12 semester hours in the following content for regular and special education teachers at the early childhood and elementary levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Processes and Acquisition of Reading Explains the reading acquisition process through reading and written language development, identifies language structures, research-based reading instructional models, and how the brain responds to reading acquisition. • Instruction of Reading Identifies research-based instructional techniques and strategies to address phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension to support the development of student reading proficiency. • Materials for Teaching Reading Enables teachers to select and evaluate materials for teaching reading and related skills to address different levels of reading proficiency within the classroom and promote the development of strategic, fluent, independent readers. • Assessment for Reading Instruction Enables teachers to use classroom, local and state assessment data to guide instructional decision-making. <p style="text-align: right;">(More)</p>

<p>What courses do teachers at the secondary level and Pre-K-12 or K-12 levels have to take?</p>	<p>Six semester hours in the following content were recommended for regular and special education teachers at the secondary level and Pre-K-12 or K-12 levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods of Teaching Reading in the Secondary Content Area, Part I Outlines the essentials of the reading process; introduces teachers to the purposes of reading, methods of assessing student reading, cognitive strategies in reading, methods of incorporating reading through student-centered instruction, and motivations for reading. • Methods of Teaching Reading in the Secondary Content Area, Part II Expands on Part I, enabling teachers to apply theories, strategies, and practices in daily classroom instruction.
<p>Can teachers “test out” of the reading requirement?</p>	<p>Yes, early childhood, elementary, and special education teachers at the early childhood and elementary levels may test out by achieving the qualifying score of 173 on the Praxis II assessment <i>Reading Across the Curriculum: Elementary</i>. Check the Educational Testing Service (ETS) web site at www.teachingandlearning.org for testing information.</p>
<p>When do teachers have to satisfy the requirements?</p>	<p>Teachers seeking initial certification in Maryland must complete all required coursework prior to receiving certification. Teachers must fulfill the additional reading coursework as part of the state’s certification renewal requirements.</p> <p>Current teachers have at least a full certificate renewal period in which to complete the additional coursework. (Early childhood, elementary, and special education -- birth through grade 3, grades 1-8 -- teachers have at least two full renewal periods to satisfy all 12 semester hours.)</p> <p>Students graduating from an out-of-state approved teacher preparation program and those last teaching out of state do not have to complete additional coursework prior to assuming teaching positions in Maryland. However, these teachers must satisfy the additional requirements to renew their certificates.</p>