



University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
School of Education
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Science of Reading Proficiency and Awareness Levels

Act 1063 of 2017, the Right to Read Act states: “Beginning no later than the 2022-2023 school year, each state-approved educator preparation program shall post on its website information describing its program to prepare teachers to teach reading using scientific reading instruction aligned with but not limited to the content measured by the stand-alone assessment adopted by the State Board of Education under § 6 -17- 402.”

The Right to Read Act 2017 provides legislation regarding the Science of Reading (SOR) for candidates in initial and advanced programs.

The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff’s Educator Preparation Program (EPP) prepares candidates at the initial and advanced levels in the SOR to be proficient or awareness. Candidates at the undergraduate level majoring in Elementary Education K-6 and Special Education K-12 complete six hours of coursework aligned to the proficiency level competencies. Elementary Education – K6 candidates are required to enroll and complete coursework in the courses, Fundamentals of Language Arts/Reading and Methods of Teaching Reading. Special Education K-12 candidates are required to enroll and complete the coursework in the Fundamentals of Language Arts/Reading and Diagnostic/Corrective Reading courses. Elementary and special education candidates also enroll in other education courses where the awareness level competencies are taught.

Candidates seeking licensure must complete the coursework and pass the Arkansas Foundations of Reading Test to be considered proficient in the SOR to obtain a license.

Candidates enrolled in other programs such as the Middle Level and Secondary Education must complete coursework to be considered knowledgeable of the awareness level in scientific reading instruction to obtain a license. At the awareness level, candidates enroll and complete the following courses:

Middle Level Education

- Methods of Teaching Reading
- Assessing Middle and Secondary Learners
- Adolescent Development or Human Growth and Development
- Psychology of Adolescent Learners or Psychology of Learning and Teaching



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Secondary Education

- Adolescent Development or Human Growth and Development
- Assessing Middle and Secondary Learners
- Psychology of Adolescent Learners or Psychology of Learning and Teaching

Candidates at the Advanced level, Master of Arts in Teaching are required to complete 3-6 hours of coursework in the SOR. Candidates in Elementary Education – K-6 and Middle-Level Education programs enroll in the courses, Developmental and Corrective Reading and the Master of Arts in Teaching Institute. Candidates enrolled in the Broad Range and Secondary Education programs enroll in the course, Master of Arts in Teaching Institute.

In 2019, the Division of Elementary Education and Secondary Education approved the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff School of Education pathways to meet this requirement. The pathways are aligned to the appropriate Foundations of Reading Competencies-Proficiency Level and Awareness Levels. DESE – Approved Course Modules for all approved licensure programs at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.