



Bilingual Reading Specialist (BRS) Certificate

Bicultural-Bilingual Studies
College of Education and Human Development



Statement of Purpose

- Specialized training in reading instruction for bilingual students.
- A five-course sequence yielding a certificate, which may be an incentive for applying to the M.A. in Bicultural-Bilingual Studies.

Three primary audiences

- Current holders of the Texas Reading Specialist license (certification) as a supplement to professional licensure;
- Those in the M. A. program in Bicultural-Bilingual studies as a specialization within the program area;
- Those with a B. A. but as yet, are undecided about entering a master's degree program.

Statement of Need

- 2000 and 2003

- only 1,324 Reading Specialist Certificates issued (SBEC 2003)

- 2003 only *eight*(8) Reading Specialist certificates issued

- *There is a lack of bilingual reading specialists in Texas.*

New Resources

- No additional resources required
- No additional facilities or materials required
- BRS Certificate program will consist of existing courses

Description of Curriculum

- Fifteen (15) credit hours
- Prescribed curriculum (below)
- Curriculum program based on the BBL federal biliteracy grant *LIBRO*

Curriculum Table

Bilingual Reading Specialist Certificate (15 hours)

- **BBL 5173** *Sociocultural Issues & Teaching of Reading*
- **ESL 5033** *Second Language Reading and Writing*
- **BBL 5063** *Biliteracy in Bilingual Classrooms*
- **BBL 5053** *Assessment in BBL and Second Language Studies*
- **BBL 5193** *Multicultural Literature for Children*

Faculty & Program Administration

■ Professoriate

- Dr. Ellen Riojas Clark, Professor
- Dr. Lucila Ek, Assistant Professor
- Dr. Howard L. Smith, Associate Professor
- Dr. Wayne Wright, Associate Professor

Admissions Requirements

- All applicants must meet the admissions requirements for certificate programs outlined in chapter 4 of the Graduate Catalog.
- Degree-seeking students in all UTSA departments
- Special Graduate Students who are non-degree-seeking (see chapter 2 of the Graduate Catalog).
- **International students–**
 - TOEFL score of 550 or greater on the paper-based exam or
 - TOEFL minimum of 79-80 on the internet-based exam.
 - Admission to the **BRS Certificate** program does not imply admission to any degree program.

Projected Enrollments

- Projection for first cohort of students in the **BRS Certificate** program will consist of 7-10 individuals.
- It is projected that 5-10 students will be admitted to the certificate program each spring and fall semester.

Projected Enrollments

- Students of diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds are encouraged to apply.
- Recruitment through local professional organizations:
 - San Antonio Association for Bilingual Education (SAAABE)
 - TexTESOL II
 - Region XX
 - Local school districts
 - SAISD, EISD, Boerne ISD
 - COEHD recruiting fairs

Budget

- No new funds will be necessary for the implementation of the **BRS Certificate**.
- The program will consist of courses that are currently offered by faculty in the department.
- No additional facilities or resources will be needed for the certificate program.

Evaluations/Reviews:

- The success of the **BRS Certificate** program will be judged in the following ways:
 - 50% of the students who complete the BRS certificate will apply for regular admission into the graduate program
 - 100% of the students who complete the BRS certificate and take the state test for the Master Reading Specialist examination will pass by their second attempt.