"Media study does not replace text. It broadens and deepens our understanding of texts."
-Philip M. Anderson, "Visual & Verbal Thinking" in Media Literacy, A Reader

Language, Literacy and Special Populations

The Department of Language, Literacy and Special Populations is known for its belief in the importance of research, the interconnectedness of literacy with the language arts and other content fields, the importance of meeting the literacy needs of all learners, and the interactive relationship of assessment and instruction.

Our philosophical base could best be summarized as “socio-psycholinguistic constructivism” and we also ascribe to the importance of effect on learning, cognitive theories and critical theory.

Rationale for Certificate in Digital Literacies

Given the implications of current policy and technology in education, this certificate will provide coursework that allows participants to examine the role of digital literacy in education through the evaluation of digital literacies, their politics, problems, and possibilities, and will enable a deeper understanding of ways to incorporate digital literacies into curricula. Educators will gain a richer conceptualization of digital literacies and their place in twenty-first century education, in addition to understanding ways to apply appropriate programs and applications to their current teaching practices.

The addition of this certificate will support the present program curriculum by giving educators:

- Theoretical perspectives that shape new literacy and digital literary research.
- Knowing and applying digital pedagogies and practices in the classroom.
- Information on ways to evaluate the 21st century learner.
- Ways to analyze the economic and technological impact of digital literacies and how that can subsequently affect instruction (for those administrators or educators interested in program evaluation.)

Components of the Certificate

Courses required:

- READ 7385: Digital Literacies
- READ 5320: Popular Culture, Gaming and Literacy
- READ 5320: Digital Literacies and the Administrator
- READ 6307: Digital Literacies and Pedagogy
SHSU & the College of Education

Sam Houston State University has been named in The Princeton Review website as one of the “Best of the West” since 2007. Of the 123 “western” schools listed, 21 were selected from the 74 public and private colleges and universities in Texas including Rice, TCU, Texas State-San Marcos, UT, and A&M. SHSU was one of the 12 colleges and universities nationwide featured in the US News and World Report online edition’s “America’s Best College” publication.

The College of Education is consistently ranked among the top schools of education. It is one of the oldest teacher preparation institutions in Texas and one of only seven public universities in Texas with current national accreditation (NCATE).

As a student, you will have the opportunity to mentor with a number of outstanding faculty members. Each of these nationally-recognized and award winning professors have years of educational and research experience and are dedicated and committed educators.

The faculty actively participates in a number of reading organizations to stay at the forefront of the changing world of literacy. These include: The International Reading Association, the National Reading Conference, The American Educational Research Association, and the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers.

Open the Door to Your Future

Further your studies and career at Sam Houston’s top ranked College of Education. The minimum requirements to be considered for this highly-competitive program are:

♦ 2.8 GPA (3.0 or higher get their GRE Scores waived)
♦ GRE Scores
♦ “Online Survey and Interview” on Survey Monkey
♦ Official Transcripts

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