

**EDU 6648-030 or 6648-040 (Group Mastery Practicum)**  
**WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH SEVERE READING DIFFICULTIES:**  
**AN ADVANCED INTERVENTION PRACTICUM**

**Instructors:**

Michele Blake, M.Ed, Licensed Wilson Trainer  
Dr. Grace T. Craig, Licensed Wilson Trainer  
University of Utah Reading Clinic (UURC)  
5242 South College Drive (480 West), Suite 100, Murray, UT 84123  
Email: [michele.blake@utah.edu](mailto:michele.blake@utah.edu)  
[grace.craig@utah.edu](mailto:grace.craig@utah.edu)

**Logistics:**

- 3 credit/no-credit continuing education graduate hours (cost = \$350)
- 3 graduate credits, letter grade (\$450)
- may apply toward degree with advisor's permission; ***strongly recommend acceptance in a graduate program before completing this course to ensure credits will apply to your program of study as "matriculated"***
- to determine if this applies to your school district salary schedule, please consult appropriate district personnel
- presentation of university transcript to USOE earns 108 re-licensure points prerequisite
- All coursework must be completed within 15 months from start date.

**Prerequisite:**

Wilson Reading System® (WRS) Level I Certification and WRS Advanced Strategies for MSL Group Instruction Course (Group Workshop – completed within the last three years).

**Working with Minors: Your Background Check & Youth Protection Training**

You are reminded that you should be a positive role model for minors and conduct yourself in a respectful, honest, and caring manner. You may not engage in abusive conduct or speech toward a minor or any conduct or speech of a sexual nature.

All persons taking our courses and/or working with our students are required to provide the UURC with documentation of a cleared criminal background check. You may provide this documentation to the UURC via email, land mail, or by bringing it to the office. **START THIS PROCESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; IT MAY TAKE WEEKS TO COMPLETE!**

- a. If you are **practicing educator**, it is likely that you have already completed this process and have a record of such on the USBE CACTUS system. Visit the following website to view your records and obtain documentation: <https://www.uen.org/cactus/logon.do>. If the CACTUS system states that you do not need a background check at this time, please provide the UURC with that CACTUS message, and a copy of your current Utah educator license.
- b. If you are a **University of Utah student**, you should use the USBE Online License System because USBE clearance within the last 3 years is required for all University of Utah education coursework (e.g., EDU 1010, admittance to the teacher certification programs). Instructions are provided at <https://uite.utah.edu/students/background-check/>.
- c. If you are **neither** a practicing educator, nor a University of Utah student, you must still provide documentation of clearance from the Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification (UBCI). Please check the following websites for the application and directions to complete this process: <https://bci.utah.gov/criminal-records/criminal-records-forms/>

You must also complete the [U of U Youth Protection Training](#) prior to working with students. This training may be completed on-line: contact [youthprotection@utah.edu](mailto:youthprotection@utah.edu) and you will be directed as to how to proceed.

***Persons who have not completed these requirements by the first day of clinic will not be allowed to register for this course and will not receive credit for the course.***

### **Practicum Course Description and Expectations**

This credit/no-credit or letter-grade continuing education graduate course is made possible through the Eccles Foundation, Crawford Foundation and the University of Utah Reading Clinic. It is designed to help educators develop advanced theoretical and practical knowledge of effective intervention for students with severe reading difficulties. Specific instructional techniques used in this practicum are grounded in cognitive research on the development of the ability to read words and research on effective instructional practices for students with severe reading difficulties.

During this practicum, participants will deepen skills developed in the WRS Level I including understanding language processes and how they impact the development of proficient readers and writers. Participants will focus on developing effective small-group instruction – generally in the beginning steps of the program. The WRS Group Mastery practicum requires successful delivery of a minimum of 50 lessons with an approved group of 3-4 students reaching Substep 3.1 (or higher) in the program in accordance with the WRS Group Mastery Practicum/Participant Study Guide, with an approved small group, and submission of at least three videotaped lessons for observation and feedback. This practicum course is one of four components required to obtain WRS Level II Certification.

Participants are expected to:

- administer pre and post assessments to identify students with word-level deficits who are appropriate for an intensive intervention in a small, homogeneous group setting and measure growth,
- plan and conduct group lessons that address the individual needs within the group with clearly established rules and routines and understand how to create more systematic and scaffold instruction, as needed, for students within a group setting.
- appropriately pace a group of students through the curriculum, developing mastery of material taught, designing group lessons that focus on accuracy, automaticity, and fluency of word and text reading.
- accurately teach the structure of the English language (as presented in WRS Steps 1-6), and,
- enhance instructional skills developed in Level I Certification
- the approved small group must receive at least five 45-minute, four 60-minute, or three 90-minute lessons per week, (five 75-90 minute lessons per week is optimal).
- practicum students must reach WRS Substep 3.1 (or higher) in the program.

Participants will receive extensive mentoring as they apply these techniques in a small group tutorial setting.

***NOTE: Successful completion of the WRS Group Mastery Practicum will result in WRS Group Certification. Wilson Reading System® Level II Certification will result after successful completion of WRS Group Mastery Certification and WRS Steps 7-12 Certification. Wilson is a nationally recognized program that prepares teachers to succeed with students who require intensive instruction.***

Assessment of Direct, Multisensory Teaching / Lesson Procedures will be scored as procedures are observed. **Participant must score 3 or higher for all items** on observation form by the final observation. For reference, see WRS Group Mastery Practicum/Participant Study Guide.

## **Observation and Feedback**

• **Three videotaped lessons** must be submitted to trainer for review and feedback. Each block of the lesson should be no longer than 30 minutes. (**Note:** After the first three video-recorded submissions (Observations 1-3), participants may be requested to submit an additional video if lesson procedures and instructional components do not yet meet the standards. If skills are not properly demonstrated after four total video-recorded lessons, participant must restart the practicum.)

Scoring Key			
1 = NOT DEMONSTRATED	2 = DEMONSTRATED PROCEDURES INADEQUATELY OR INCONSISTENTLY	3 = DEMONSTRATED MOST PROCEDURES MOST OF THE TIME	4 = DEMONSTRATED ALL PROCEDURES CONSISTENTLY / INDEPENDENTLY

Grades	Points	Explanation
A	4.0 / 100-95	Excellent performance, superior achievement
A-	3.7 / 94-89	
B+	3.3 / 88-86	Good performance, substantial achievement
B	3.0 / 85-83	
B-	2.7 / 82-77	
C+	2.3 / 76-74	Standard performance and achievement
C	2.0 / 73-71	
C-	1.7 / 70-68	
D	1.3 / 67-00	Unsatisfactory performance & achievement

## **Textbooks & Materials**

\*\*Required\* -

- Wilson Reading System Group Mastery Practicum Packet
- WRS Introductory Set, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, available at: [www.wilsonlanguage.com/store](http://www.wilsonlanguage.com/store)  
(WRS Instructor Manual Steps 1-6, WADE, WRS Rules Notebook Steps 1-6, WRS Dictation Book 1-6, End-of-Step Assessment Items Steps 1-6, Letter-Sound Cards Steps 1-12, Word Cards Steps 1-6, Word Element & Syllable Cards, Steps 1-6, WRS Student Readers 1-6, WRS Magnetic Journal with Phoneme Tiles)

### ***- Wilson Reading System® Group Mastery Practicum Required Reading***

- ♦The International Dyslexia Association. (2015). *Effective reading instruction for students with dyslexia*. [Fact Sheet]. Baltimore, MD: Author.
- ♦Rosenberg, D., & Pankowski, A. (2017). *Universal screening: K-2 reading*. [Fact Sheet]. Baltimore, MD: The International Dyslexia Association.
- ♦Lowell, S. (2017). Dyslexia assessment: *What is it and how can it help?* [Fact Sheet]. Baltimore, MD: The International dyslexia Association
- ♦American psychological Association, Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education. (2015). *Top 20 principles from psychology for preK-12 teaching and learning*. Washington, DC: Author.
- ♦Murray, C.S., Coleman, M.A., Vaughn, S., Wanzek, J., & Roberts, G. (2012). *Designing and delivering intensive interventions: A teachers' toolkit*. Portsmouth, NH: RMC Research Corporation, CenteronInstruction.

\*\*Recommended\* -

- ♦Blachman, B. (1997). *Foundations of reading acquisition and dyslexia: Implications for early intervention*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- ♦Birsh, J.R. (2005). *Multi-Sensory Teaching of Basic Language Skills*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes Publishing.

### **WRS Group Mastery Practicum Completion Requirements**

- Submit a pretesting report, including educational history and current test results of each practicum student.
- Conduct small-group student instruction with a minimum of 50 lessons in accordance with the WRS Group Mastery Practicum Study Guide.
- Provide documentation of written lesson plans.
- Submit a minimum of three videotaped lessons submitted for review and feedback. The final observation must be successfully passed.
- Demonstrate proficiency in implementing all WRS procedures in a small group setting.
- Develop teacher (including lesson plans, assessments, student notebooks, and students' written work in accordance with WLT program standards.
- Develop and maintain a Class Progress Monitoring Graph.
- Demonstrate mastery of lesson plan procedures with an emphasis on both accuracy and fluency (documented and approved by Wilson Trainer) delivered in a group setting.
- Demonstrate an understanding of language concepts through accurate teaching with multisensory procedures to a small group of students.
- Demonstrate student success and mastery of decoding, encoding, morphology, vocabulary and comprehension skills for small group of students.
- Conduct posttesting and submit the Group Mastery Practicum Students Final Report and related documents after a minimum of 50 lessons and achievement of WRS Step 3.1 (or higher).
- Completion of the WRS Group Mastery Required Reading Exam.

### **WRS Group Mastery Observations and Feedback**

- Upload three videotaped observation lessons (at Wilson Academy) for Trainer to review and provide feedback (trainer may request an additional video). Each observation lesson must be a full WRS lesson (all three blocks) and delivered in accordance with the WRS Group Mastery Practicum/Participant Study Guide. Submit all required documentation to trainer within two weeks of recording (lesson occurrence). Video recordings and/or required documentation older than two weeks **may not be reviewed**, and participant will be required to submit a new video and documentation of a more recent lesson.
- **Video 1** must show:
  - An accuracy lesson taught within the first 20 practicum lessons (any substep)
  - Demonstrate all three blocks of a WRS Lesson as indicated on the Video Submission Checklist for Observation #1.
- **Video 2** must show:
  - Show an accuracy lesson taught at substep 3.1 or higher
  - Demonstrate all three blocks of the lesson plan as indicated on the Video Submission Checklist for Observation #2.
- **Video 3** must show:
  - Show an accuracy lesson taught at substep 3.1 or higher
  - Demonstrate all three blocks of the lesson plan as indicated on the Video Submission Checklist for Observation #2.
- With each videotape submission, include the appropriate Video Submission Checklist. Ensure that all items on the checklist are included (and in order) when submitting observation materials to trainer for review.
- Incorporate trainer feedback from the WRS Group Mastery Practicum Observation Form into your remaining practicum lessons and stay in touch with your trainer between observations.

## **LEVEL II COACHING SESSIONS SCHEDULE**

(Coaching sessions - optional - will address both Group Mastery practicum and WRS 7-12 practicum concepts)

### **UURC Coaching Session 1 – Intervention Framework**

- model and practice a 1.4 accuracy focus lesson execution/procedures
- discuss intro/accuracy/fluency focus
- review Wilson Group Mastery practicum study guide

### **UURC Coaching Session 2**

- review Wilson 7-12 practicum study guide
- spelling option procedure for one-syllable and multisyllabic words
- model, practice & discuss substeps 7.1-7.5
- pacing guided by charting in part 4 of the lesson.

### **UURC Coaching Session 3**

- enriched vs. decodable text
- accuracy vs. fluency focus in parts 9 and 10 of the lesson
- comprehension S.O.S. procedures

### **UURC Coaching Session 4**

- model, practice, & discuss substeps 8.1-9.7

### **UURC Coaching Session 5**

- model and practice 3.1 lesson focus on 2 syllable words

### **UURC Coaching Session 6**

- model, practice, & discuss substeps 10.1-10.4

## **UNIVERSITY CREDIT REQUIREMENTS & CRITERIA**

### **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the [Center for Disability Services](http://www.sa.utah.edu/ds), 162 Union Building, <http://www.sa.utah.edu/ds>, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with us to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

If you have already established accommodations with CDS, please provide me with this information as soon as possible and no later than the first week of class, so that I can provide a supportive learning environment.

### **Attendance & Requirements**

The University expects regular attendance at all class meetings. Instructors must communicate any particular attendance requirements of the course to students in writing on or before the first-class meeting. Students are responsible for acquainting themselves with and satisfying the entire range of academic objectives and requirements as defined by the instructor. PPM/Policy6 - 100III--O

### **Academic Honesty**

It is required that you are aware of the University of Utah policies as you will be held accountable to University of Utah standards. Please read the *University of Utah Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html> which states in part, "In order to ensure that the highest standards of academic conduct are promoted and supported at the University, students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating."

### **English Learners**

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

### **Safety**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit [safeu.utah.edu](http://safeu.utah.edu).

### **Professionalism**

All participants are asked to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Professionalism for this practicum includes, but is not limited to:

- punctuality
- displaying evolving attitudes toward teaching & learning that are supportive of all students and communities
- refraining from abusive conduct toward a student or any conduct of a sexual nature
- demonstrating an openness to feedback and using such to improve performance
- seeking advice when needed
- exchanging contact information with Wilson trainer (i.e., cell and/or home phone, email address)
- communicating with Wilson trainer regarding any potential conflicts with the schedule
- maintaining academic honesty <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>
- maintaining "Fitness to Teach" criteria (see <http://uite.utah.edu/documents/www-ed-utah-edu/programs/Fitness%20to%20Teach%20Final.pdf>)

Significant and/or repeated failure to maintain professionalism may result in removal of the educator from the practicum and 'no credit/failing grade' for the course.

**EDU 6648-030 (credit/non-credit)**

## **WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH SEVERE READING DIFFICULTIES: AN ADVANCED INTERVENTION PRACTICUM**

### **Credit and Certification**

To attain University of Utah credit and to be recommended for Wilson Level II, Group Mastery certification, participant must demonstrate proficiency in lesson procedures, each criterion outlined below and must earn a score of 3 or higher by no later than the final observation. The participant also must receive a grade of 80% or higher for each online assessment. These assessments are self-paced. Once an assessment has been submitted electronically, responses cannot be changed. In addition, the

participant must complete and submit an at-home, open-book proficiency exam with final practicum paperwork.

**Certification: Credit/Non-Credit**

- cleared background check (USBE), if applicable,
- complete all Wilson Level II, Group Mastery practicum requirements,
- complete final observation with passing scores,
- complete all Wilson Level II, Group Mastery online course requirements, and,
- submit completed pre-testing, post-testing, practicum student report, and proficiency exam to Wilson trainer.

**EDU 6648-040 (letter grade)**

**WORKING WITH STUDENTS WITH SEVERE READING DIFFICULTIES:  
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**Credit and Certification**

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**Certification: Letter Grade**

- cleared background check (USBE), if applicable,
- complete all Wilson Level II, Group Mastery practicum requirements,
- complete final observation with passing scores,
- complete all Wilson Level II, Step Group Mastery online course requirements,
- submit completed pre-testing, post-testing, practicum student report, and proficiency exam to Wilson trainer, and,
- submit case study on student (if taking course for **letter grade**) to UURC.

**Case Study Guidelines: Intensive Intervention for Students with Severe Difficulties**

If you are taking the course for **letter grade** the student you tutored during the practicum will serve as the subject for a **written case study**. The case study should include:

*1. Summary and analysis of the student's reading abilities at baseline.*

This is more than simply "reporting the data." Briefly describe the student's educational history. Then, describe the student's baseline reading abilities in both table and narrative form by drawing on data collected from standardized and performance-based measures: reading achievement (i.e., Woodcock Reading Mastery Test, Woodcock Johnson-R, Woodcock Johnson 3, or Wechsler Individual Achievement Test), accuracy with letter-sound correspondences, word reading for all syllable types, and word reading and spelling for high frequency words (i.e., WIST), and word recognition and phonemic segmentation fluency (i.e., TOWRE). In addition, you must discuss the student's abilities in relation to chronological grade level. Specifically, at baseline, where is this child in relation to where s/he should be? Why?

*2. Summary and analysis of the intervention.*

Describe the intervention you provided for this child. Briefly describe each component: decoding (accuracy & fluency), encoding (decoding & fluency), vocabulary, high frequency word work,

comprehension work. Did any component seem to offer more difficulty or ease than others? Why? What, if any, adjustments did you make in the intervention?

**3. Summary and analysis of the student's reading abilities at posttest.**

After administering the posttest and analyzing the data, describe your student's reading abilities at the close of the intervention in both table and narrative form. Discuss your student's posttest performance on the same standardized and performance-based measures administered at baseline. If indicated, make specific recommendations for future intervention.

**4. Summary and analysis of your own practice.**

As a reading educator, what have you learned from this practicum experience about reading development, assessment, and intervention as they relate to students with severe reading difficulties? How has this knowledge informed your practice? Provide specific examples.

This case study must be typed, double-spaced, and **must** include the following information:

- your full name
- semester and year you registered for the course
- course name, course number, section number (e.g., Wilson II - Group, EDU 6648-040)
- your employing school and district (e.g., Sandy Elementary, Canyons School District)

This information may be placed on page 1; a separate cover page is not necessary.

This case study must be typed and double-spaced. It should be no longer than 10 pages in length. It must meet APA standards for writing style and mechanics. As such, students are encouraged to have their papers proofread for appropriate grammar, spelling, and punctuation.

Your case study is due by 5pm, one week after the last day of practicum and should be sent electronically to [kathleen.brown@utah.edu](mailto:kathleen.brown@utah.edu). If needed, you will receive feedback from Dr. Brown electronically.

**Case Study Grading Rubric:** The case study will earn pass +, pass, pass -, or fail.

The criteria for grading are as follows:

**Pass +** = Exceptionally strong summary and analysis of baseline results, intervention, and posttest results. Exceptional analysis of practicum's impact on own teaching. Superior academic writing style. No mechanical errors.

**Pass** = Satisfactory summary and analysis of baseline results, intervention, and posttest results. Satisfactory analysis of practicum's impact on own teaching. Satisfactory academic writing style. Very few, if any, mechanical errors.

**Pass -** = Less than satisfactory summary and analysis of baseline results, intervention, and posttest results. Less than satisfactory analysis of practicum's impact on own teaching. Flawed academic writing style. Numerous mechanical errors.

It is important to note that failure to meet any criterion constitutes grounds for an assignment to earn a lower score. For example, a case report that is satisfactory in meeting the first three criteria but evidences numerous mechanical errors may earn "pass -."

**Case Study Grading Conversions:** Pass + = 4.0-3.7(A to A-)

Pass = 3.3-2.0 (B+ to C)

Pass - = 1.7-.7(C- to D-)

**We recommend that you keep a copy of your case study on file or hard drive until you receive your final grade.**

**Please note that we do not make special arrangements to post final grades early.**



If you miss the deadline for paper submission, you will receive an “I” signifying “incomplete.” After 1 year, the “I” will convert to an “E,” which is a final grade of “no credit.