

EDU 5642/6642-030 and 040**Tier II Intervention for Intermediate Readers: Higher StepsSM Yearlong Practicum (Small Group)**

Professor: Dr. Kelly C. Patrick, Director
University of Utah Reading Clinic (UURC)
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Instructors: Contact information will be disseminated at or prior to first class.

Logistics:

- on location in schools or online
- register fall semester/tutor all year/grade posts summer semester
- clinical sessions - 27 hours
- observations - 6 hours
- seminars - 5 hours
- intervention: Higher StepsSM - approx. 50 hours
- 3 credit hours CR/NC = \$450 or Letter Grade = \$550
- obtain advisor permission for this course to count toward degree

Course Description and Expectations

This course is designed to help educators deliver effective, efficient research-based assessment and intervention for readers of any age who have reached an early 3rd grade reading level, but who are below their chronological grade levels. Research has demonstrated that, due to environmental and/or neurobiological issues many older students reading below grade level manifest behaviors consistent in much younger normally-achieving readers.

Higher StepsSM intervention is provided in a small group format for readers who are at approximately the same ability level. The course follows a “practicum model,” in which educators build a conceptual framework for reading development and intervention through a yearlong, mentored intervention experience.

The course is open to any educator, including but not limited to: classroom teachers, reading specialists, special educators, administrators, paraprofessionals, and Multi-Language Learner (MLL) personnel.

Please note that for this course to count toward the USBE’s Secondary Literacy Interventionist Endorsement, educators must implement Higher StepsSM in a small group of secondary students (i.e., grades 6-12).

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 working with **students from the UURC** 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 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/>

All persons working with **students from the UURC** are also required to complete the U of U Youth Protection Training prior to working with students. This training may be completed on-line: contact 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.

Textbooks & Materials

1. On the first day of training, you must have access to the Higher StepsSM Resources (see link below). At the first training, and thereafter, we will specify which required binder materials you will need to download and print for you and your student.
 - <https://uurc.utah.edu/Educators/Resources.php>
2. On the first day of training, you must also bring a Higher StepsSM Word Study Kit. You have two options for meeting this requirement:
 - Make your own Higher StepsSM Word Study Kit. If you choose to this option, you will need to photocopy the cards on card stock, laminate, cut, and organize them. This process is time-intensive, so we suggest you begin ASAP. Go to: <http://www.uurc.utah.edu/Educators/Resources.php> and download the Higher StepsSM Word Study Kit. Before you do anything, carefully read the instructions and then follow them in sequence. The cost of making your own kit will vary from \$30-\$150, depending on where you laminate your materials, so we encourage you to shop around for the best price.
 - Purchase a printed, shrink-wrapped kit with laminated and already cut cardstock from University Print and Mail Services ([2302165 UPMS Reading Clinic Flyer.pdf - Google Drive](#)).

Pre-made kits save time, but you will need to sort, organize, and place the cards in envelopes BEFORE you attend your first training! Many tutors purchase a small plastic container with a handle for easy storage and transport.

The cost of a pre-made kit is approximately \$75; final cost is determined by University Printing Services.

3. On the first day of training, you must have:
 - a timer that counts both up & down (many cell phones have this feature)
 - 1 black permanent marker (e.g., Sharpie, Accent)
 - 1 different color permanent marker
 - 1 package of 3x5 white unlined index cards

All required materials must be ready to use on the first day of training & every day thereafter.

Recommended Reference

Birsh, J.R. (2006). *Multisensory teaching of basic language skills, (2nd ed.)*. Baltimore, MD: Brookes.

Course Schedule

Clinical Sessions: Topics and Readings

Session 1/Baseline Assessment & Forming Groups

Overview of Higher StepsSM Group: empirical research base, theoretical framework, issues in reading difficulties, overview of intervention model, review of assessments for identifying and leveling intermediate readers, using assessment findings to form groups.

Assessment: overview, modeling, and guided practice administering an informal reading assessment, using accuracy and rate in determining instructional/intervention levels.

Academic Vocabulary: importance of fluency with academic vocabulary for comprehension and oral language development, review of scope and sequence, modeling of word list presentation, practice, and pacing.

Assisted Reading for Comprehension and Fluency of Complex Text: building and activating background knowledge prior to reading, frontloading orthographically challenging words, echo reading, solo reading, partner reading, collecting accuracy and rate data as a guide to moving up or moving laterally in text level.

Clinical Practicum:

- modeling of assisted reading with group
- participants begin assisted reading with group

Optional Reading:

Marzola, E.S., & Shepherd, M.J., Chapter 7/Assessment of reading difficulties. In, Birsh, J.R. (2006). *Multisensory teaching of basic language skills, (2nd ed.)*.

Moats, L.C., & Farrell, M.L., Chapter 2/Multisensory structured language education. In, Birsh, J.R. (2006). *Multisensory teaching of basic language skills, (2nd ed.)*.

Session 2/Assisted Reading and Comprehension Work in Groups

Academic Vocabulary: introduction of activities to provide meaningful encounters with academic vocabulary.

Assisted Reading of Complex Text: collecting accuracy and rate data as a guide to moving up or moving laterally in text level, using rate and accuracy data to pace groups that are having difficulty with or excelling in a specific text level.

Comprehension Work: narrative & expository text structures, using text structure to drive comprehension work, using questioning during guided reading to assess comprehension, literal and inferential questions, trouble-shooting comprehension difficulties, providing a model for complete answers, extending thinking through questioning and modeling.

Advanced Word Study: high frequency words & word banks.

Optional Reading: Marzola, E.S., Chapter 14/Strategies to improve reading comprehension. In, Birsh, J.R. (2006). *Multisensory teaching of basic language skills, (2nd ed.)*.

Clinical Practicum:

- on-site participants execute assisted reading with group
- discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, book level)
- opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification
- all participants add word bank with group

Session 3/Assisted Reading & Advanced Word Study in Groups

Academic Vocabulary: multiple meaningful interactions (i.e., daily and cumulative review activities) to move academic vocabulary into oral language.

Advanced Word Study: relationship between Advanced Word Study and development of the ability to read words, closed syllable structure, intro/direct teaching, accuracy, fluency pacing and activities, speed checks to determine automaticity.

Clinical Practicum:

- on-site participants execute assisted reading to a Higher StepsSM group as mentor and peers observe
- discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, word study procedures)
- opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification
- modeling of and guided practice of intro/direct, accuracy, fluency activities with module 1 (closed) and module 2 (closed/closed)
- all participants add Advanced Word Study with group

Optional Reading: Henry, M., Chapter 6/The history and structure of written English. In, Birsh, J.R. (2006). *Multisensory teaching of basic language skills, (2nd ed.)*.

Session 4/Assisted Reading, Advanced Word Study, & Fluency Work in Groups

Academic Vocabulary: multiple meaningful interactions (i.e., daily and cumulative review activities) to move academic vocabulary into oral language.

Advanced Word Study: flexibility with multi-syllable combinations, intro/direct teaching, accuracy, fluency pacing and activities, speed checks to determine automaticity.

Clinical Practicum:

- on-site participants execute assisted reading and Advanced Word Study to a Higher StepsSM group as mentor and peers observe
- discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, word study procedures)
- opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification
- modeling of and guided practice with flexibility with multi-syllable combinations (module 8)
- modeling of timed repeated readings in groups
- all participants add fluency work with group

Optional Reading: Carreker, S., Chapter 9/Teaching reading: Accurate decoding and fluency. In, Birsh, J.R. (2006). *Multisensory teaching of basic language skills, (2nd ed.)*.

Session 5/Full Lesson & “Individual Extras” in Groups

Academic Vocabulary: multiple meaningful interactions (i.e., daily and cumulative review activities) to move academic vocabulary into oral language.

Assisted reading of Complex Text: word study to book level correspondence, pacing, collecting accuracy and rate data as a guide to moving up or moving laterally in text level, using rate and accuracy data to pace groups that are having difficulty with or excelling in a specific text level, echo and partner reading as support, when to shift group membership.

Advanced Word Study: schwa syllables in multi-syllable combinations, intro/direct teaching, accuracy, fluency pacing and activities.

Fluency work: rereading texts as a way to build fluency, reverse echo reading as a way to build expression, using knowledge of orthography and reading development to decide which prompt to use when students struggle with unfamiliar words.

Clinical Practicum:

- on-site participants execute assisted reading, Advanced Word Study, and fluency to a Higher StepsSM group as mentor and peers observe
- discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, word study procedures)

- opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification
- modeling of timed repeated readings in groups
- modeling of and guided practice with schwa syllables in multi-syllable combinations
- all participants continue to execute full lesson with group

Optional Reading: Birsh, J.R. & Schedler, J.F., Chapter 8/Planning multisensory structured language lessons in the classroom. In, Birsh, J.R. (2006). *Multisensory teaching of basic language skills*, (2nd ed.).

Session 6/ Shifting Group Composition When Indicated

Clinical Practicum:

- on-site participants execute assisted reading and Advanced Word Study to a Higher StepsSM group as mentor and peers observe
- discussion of relevant instructional issues (e.g., pacing, text level)
- opportunities for questions, remodeling, clarification
- discussion of shifting group composition when students start to diverge in assisted reading and/or word study
- all participants continue to execute full lesson with groups

University Credit Requirements & Criteria

Impact on the Future

Use your tutoring experience to understand how reading develops and how instruction leads to that development—even when students struggle. What you learn will help you be a better reading teacher in the future. And remember—even 20 or so tutoring sessions can make a significant difference in a student’s reading ability. YOU can be the person who makes that difference for the child YOU tutor!

Professionalism

All participants are asked to conduct themselves in a professional manner. Professionalism for this course/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 site supervisor (i.e., cell and/or home phone, email address)
- communicating with site supervisor regarding any potential conflicts in the schedule (e.g., school vacation days)
- if absence results in a missed session, consult with site supervisor to arrange a make-up session that may be scheduled at the discretion of the school supervisor
- maintaining [Fitness to Teach criteria](#)

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.

Course Credit Criteria (EDU 5761/6761-030)

Tutoring Execution:

Tutoring during the practicum will earn Satisfactory-strong, Moderate-less as UURC staff conduct formal and informal observations as needed.

The criteria are as follows:

Satisfactory-Strong, 100% = Satisfactory to strong tutoring execution for most of the practicum. Satisfactory to strong ability to analyze and respond to student performance. Satisfactory to strong preparation and management of tutoring materials. Satisfactory to strong ability to integrate trainer feedback into tutoring performance. Satisfactory to strong contribution to training and debriefing sessions.

Moderate-less, 70% = Moderate-less than satisfactory tutoring execution for most of practicum. Moderate-less than satisfactory ability to analyze and respond to student performance. Moderate-less than satisfactory preparation and management of tutoring materials. Moderate-less than satisfactory ability to integrate trainer feedback into tutoring performance. Moderate-less than satisfactory contribution to training and debriefing sessions. It is important to note that failure to meet a majority of the criteria listed above under 100% constitutes grounds for a score of 70%.

It is important to note that failure to meet a majority of the criteria listed above under 100% constitutes grounds for a score of 70%.

To receive credit (i.e. no letter grade) for the course, participants must satisfactorily meet each criterion outlined below:

- provide current, cleared background check documentation
- complete clinical training and coaching attendance requirements
- tutor students as directed--including implementation of feedback
- conduct assessments as directed
- participate in debrief/discussion of student progress

Letter Grade Course Credit Criteria (EDU 5761/6761-040)

To earn letter-grade credit, participants must satisfactorily meet each criterion outlined below:

- provide current, cleared background check documentation
- complete clinical training and coaching attendance requirements
- tutor students as directed--including implementation of feedback
- conduct assessments as directed
- participate in debrief/discussion of student progress
- satisfactorily meet criteria for intervention execution and case study as outlined below

Educators who fail to meet one or more criteria will not receive course credit.

Written Case Study: Your Higher StepsSM small group will be the subject of a written case study.

The case study should include:

1. **Summary and analysis of each student's foundation for reading success at baseline.** This is more than simply "reporting the data."

- a. Describe student’s baseline performance in oral reading rate/accuracy/comprehension.
 - b. Discuss their performance in relation to chronological grade level expectations.
 - i. Are they at risk for reading difficulties? Why?
- 2. Summary and analysis of the intervention.** Describe the components of the intervention you provided, including:
- a. Description of tasks in the component.
 - b. Explain purpose of component.
 - c. Student response to the instruction including:
 - 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 each student’s reading performance at posttest.** After administering the posttest and analyzing the data,
- a. Describe each student’s reading performance at the close of the intervention.
 - b. Discuss student’s instructional level in passage reading and word recognition in relation to chronological grade level.
 - c. If indicated, make specific recommendations for future instruction/intervention.
- 4. Summary and analysis of teaching practices.**
- a. What have you learned about reading development and instruction/intervention from your practicum experience?
 - b. How has this learning informed your practice? Provide specific examples.

Your case study is due by 5pm, 2 weeks after the final day of your practicum. Please submit your case study by email to kelly.patrick@utah.edu. Dr. Patrick will evaluate your paper using the rubric above and respond to you with a paper grade and a final grade that will be entered with the U of U Registrar.

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,” – a final grade of “no credit.”

Be aware that your grade may not post with the registrar until the semester following your paper submission.

We cannot make “special arrangements” to post individual grades early—regardless of the reason.

Please keep a copy of your case study on file or hard drive until you receive your final grade.

Course grade = 25% (/31 points) case study grade and 75% (/93 points) practicum grade.

The criteria for grading are as follows:

93-100% = 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.

73-92% = 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.

60-72% = 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 “Not Passing.”

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU RUN YOUR CASE STUDY THROUGH A WRITING ASSISTANCE APP (E.G., GRAMMARLY) PRIOR TO SUBMISSION.

Case Study Rubric

	Below expectations (0)	Approaching expectations (1)	Meets expectations (2)	Exceeds expectations (3)	Notes/Resources	
1. Summary and analysis of the student’s foundation for reading success at baseline.						
Description of student’s baseline instructional level in passage reading.					APA Guidelines	
Discuss baseline oral reading accuracy, oral reading rate, and comprehension performance in relation to chronological grade level expectations.						
2. Summary and analysis of the intervention.						
Brief description of each component (assisted reading, advanced word study and fluency work)						
Explain the purpose of each component						
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 students’ reading abilities at posttest.						
Discusses student’s instructional level in passage reading and word recognition in relation to chronological grade level.						
If indicated, specific recommendations for future instruction/intervention are made.						
4. Summary and analysis of your own teaching practices.						
New learnings about reading development and instruction/intervention from practicum experience including how this learning informed your practice. Specific examples provided.						
5. Mechanics						
APA standards (style, grammar, spelling, etc.)						
5 pgs or less						
Case Study						
Case Study total points (/31)						
Case Study percentage						
Case Study grade						

Course		
Tutoring total points (/93)		
Tutoring percentage		
Case Study percentage		
Course percentage		
Course grade		

Evaluation Procedures:

75% Tutoring 93 points

25% Case Study 31 points

 124 points
Grading Scale:

A = 94-100%

A- = 90-93%

B = 84-86%

B+ = 87-89%

B- = 80-83%

C = 74-76%

C+ = 77-79%

C- = 70-73%

D+ = 67-69%

D = 64-66%

D- = 60-63%

F = 59% and below

University Policies

1. ***The Americans with Disabilities Act.*** 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 & Access, 65 Student Services Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor 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 & Access.
 - a. Given the nature of this course, attendance is required, and adjustments will only be permitted as required by Policy 6-100(III)(O). If you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy due to a disability, please contact the [Center for Disability and Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with us to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.
2. ***University Safety Statement.*** The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, 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 <https://safeu.utah.edu>
3. ***Addressing Sexual Misconduct.*** Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to

the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 383 South University Street, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

- 4. Academic Misconduct Statement.** It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>
- 5. Drop/Withdrawal Policies.** Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. For deadlines to withdraw from full-term, first, and second session classes, see the U's Academic Calendar.
- 6. Student Code:** <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>
- 7. Accommodation Policy:** <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>
- 8. Supports for Students:** Your success at the University of Utah is important to all of us here! If you feel like you need extra support in academics, overcoming personal difficulties, or finding community, the U is here for you. Please refer to the [Student Support Services page for the U](#) for updated information.
- 9. Basic Needs Student Support Statement.** Success at The University of Utah includes learning about and using available resources. The [Basic Needs Collective](#) (BNC) is a coordinated resource referral hub. They educate about and connect students to campus and community resources to help them meet their basic needs. As a central location for resource referrals related to food, housing, health insurance, managing finances, legal services, mental health, etc., any student experiencing difficulty with basic needs is encouraged to contact them. Drop into their office located in the Union basement or schedule with them online for an in-person or virtual visit through their webpage: <https://basicneeds.utah.edu/>.