

**1761 --- Dyslexia specialist. K-12.**

The applicant must have met the requirements for the standard license and have completed at least three years of post-baccalaureate teaching experience in a K-12 setting. Applicants who have achieved dyslexia certification in another state may apply for a certification review through the Iowa reading research center.

*a. Authorization.* The holder of this endorsement is authorized to serve as a dyslexia specialist in kindergarten and grades 1 through 12.

*b. Content.* Completion of 18 semester hours in dyslexia strategies to include the following:

**(1) Knowledge of dyslexia. The dyslexia specialist will have knowledge of dyslexia and:**

1. Understand the tenets of the International Dyslexia Association’s definition of dyslexia, including the neurobiological nature and cognitive-linguistic correlates.
2. Identify distinguishing characteristics of dyslexia and commonly co-occurring disorders, including dysgraphia, dyscalculia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, expressive language disorders, receptive language disorders, and others.
3. Recognize that dyslexia may present differently along a continuum of severity and impact depending upon age, grade, and compensatory factors.
4. Understand federal and state laws that pertain to dyslexia, including use of the word “dyslexia” within school settings and documentation.
5. Understand common misconceptions regarding characteristics of and interventions for dyslexia.

Course #	Course Title	Institution	Semester Hr.	Year Completed

**(2) Psychology of language and reading.** The dyslexia specialist will understand the highly complex processes by which children learn to speak, read, and write, including language acquisition, linguistics, and the structure of written language, including phonological processing, phonics, orthography, morphology, syntax, and semantics, as well as the relationship of these components to typical and atypical reading and writing development and instruction for students with dyslexia.

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**(3) Curriculum and instruction.** The dyslexia specialist will use appropriate instructional approaches and materials including preparation in more than one curriculum as well as integrated, comprehensive, explicit, and systematic literacy instruction to support student learning in reading and writing, including the following:

1. Instruction utilizing multisensory and multimodal strategies (visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile), systematic and cumulative instruction, direct instruction, diagnostic and prescriptive teaching, as well as synthetic and analytic instruction.
2. Instructional approaches supported by the science of reading for the following areas: phonological processing, phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, spelling, and writing.
3. Creation of a dyslexia-friendly learning environment (within or outside the regular classroom) utilizing evidence-based accommodations and modifications to meet the needs of students with dyslexia, including appropriate interventions, remediation, assistive technology, and classroom accommodations for students with dyslexia.
4. Use of data to determine effectiveness of the instruction and curriculum along with student responsiveness to it.

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**(4) Assessment, diagnosis, and evaluation.** The dyslexia specialist will be confident using a variety of formal assessment tools and practices to evaluate students’ reading and writing abilities in a variety of domains. The dyslexia specialist will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the literature and research related to assessments and their purposes (including the strengths and limitations of assessments) and assessment tools for screening, diagnosis, progress monitoring, and measuring outcomes.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the signs and symptoms of reading difficulties, including but not limited to dyslexia; and also demonstrate an understanding of norms and student benchmarks.
3. Select, administer, and interpret assessments for specific purposes, including screening students at risk for dyslexia and identifying students who display a profile of dyslexia, and:
  - Understand the features of standardized norm-referenced assessments.
  - Understand the importance of selecting reliable and valid assessments to evaluate typical and atypical reading development.

- Interpret various scores derived from standardized norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessments.

4. Use assessment information to plan and evaluate instruction, including appropriate interventions, remediation, assistive technology, and classroom accommodations for students with dyslexia and other difficulties. This will include the use of multiple data sources for analysis, instructional planning, examining the effectiveness of specific intervention practices, and examining students’ responses to interventions.

5. Communicate assessment results and implications to a variety of audiences, including staff, parents, and students.

6. Understand appropriate IEP goals and Section 504 plans for students who display characteristics of dyslexia.

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**(5) Practicum in dyslexia.** The dyslexia specialist will participate in elementary and secondary practicum experiences with instructors who have experience with and are currently serving students who display characteristics of dyslexia. The practicum must include:

1. Supervised administration of norm-referenced literacy assessments.

2. Practice composing a report of literacy assessment results that will include interpretation of the results and instructional recommendations.

3. Supervised delivery of systematic, explicit, and multisensory intervention for students with characteristics of dyslexia.

4. Practice composing a report of students’ response to intervention.

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