



**SCHOLARSHIP for a
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA Graduate degree
For eligible educators in READY SCHOOLS ¹
TUITION FREE (books and fees extra)**

WHAT? A scholarship for a practice-based, job-embedded graduate degree in Curriculum and Instruction: Teacher Leadership for School Improvement. If you have a master's degree, you can pursue a specialist. (This scholarship is part of the professional development aspect of the Ready Schools initiative.)

WHO? Any certified educator with instructional responsibilities in a Miami-Dade Ready School, who intends to remain in the classroom and not go on to administration.

HOW MUCH? The Lastinger Center (an institute within the University of Florida's College of Education) and its financial partners offer a full tuition scholarship – valued at approximately \$17,000 – to each teacher accepted into the program. Books, application and program fees (approximately \$150 per semester), and GRE testing will be the only costs paid for by teachers.

HOW LONG? This is a 2 ½ year, 36-credit Graduate program. The scholarship is only offered while you are employed in a Ready School in Miami. In return for receiving a full tuition scholarship, participants must make a good faith commitment to remain in one of our partner schools for 2 years following graduation.

WHEN? We are currently accepting applications for the fall 2009 semester (August 2009 start). The application deadline is MAY 15TH, 2009. There are five semesters each year and there is usually one course offered each semester.

WHERE? This is an online program. In addition, cohorts will meet with a Miami-based UF professor-in-residence in on-site classes that support the online component. The on-site classes will be held at participating schools selected to be most convenient for most of the members of the cohort.

WHY? To improve student achievement school-wide, especially students in high need elementary schools that serve large numbers of children living in poverty.

HOW? Interested educators in Miami-Dade Ready Schools submit an email of interest to Dr Kate Kiss (kkiss5@ufl.edu) that includes: (1) school name, (2) job assignment (e.g., 1st grade teacher, reading coach, etc.) (3) Contact information (if different from their school eMail signature), and (4) degree of interest (master's or specialist if you already have an eligible master's).

¹ Information for *elementary* and *K-8 teachers*; ask about the slightly different program for teachers in early learning centers.

Where can I find more information online?

About the degrees: <http://education.ufl.edu/centers/Lastinger/>

Applying to the UF grad school: <http://gradschool.rgp.ufl.edu/students/application-and-admission.html>

About the GRE: www.ets.org or www.gre.org

How is this different from a traditional Graduate program?

In a traditional graduate program, learning is an individual activity where knowledge is gained, but not necessarily translated into practice in the classroom. In the TLSI Program, individuals participate in a professional learning community where there is an emphasis on classroom practice.

Teachers in this program must have the desire and courage to engage in a collaborative, inquiry-based learning community where practice is made public and craft knowledge is shared freely. Each person will be required to examine his/her practice, participate in critical reflection, engage in critical/supportive dialogue with others, read about and implement innovative practices, collect evidence of student learning, and share professional presentations in a variety of venues. Graduate students will not only acquire and apply new knowledge, but also share it with others within their school community.

Unlike traditional graduate programs that draw students from many different settings, TLSI is offered online and on-site to cohorts of teachers from selected schools. Classes will be taught by a variety of content and pedagogical experts: University faculty, master teachers, district personnel, community experts, outside consultants, and school-based coaches.

How does the cohort structure work?

Participants from area schools will form a cohort, consisting of a maximum of 15-20 students per group. As cohort members, participants must support the success of all members by actively participating in facilitated discussions, bringing evidence of student and adult work, and engaging in peer observation and coaching. Participants will take courses within cohorts, so that a site-based person can support learning, aiding in the translation of theory into action within the classroom.

What are the selection criteria?

Applicants will have to meet all University entrance requirements in order to be selected. Current entrance requirements include an upper division undergraduate GPA of 3.0 and GRE scores that range between 450-600 on the verbal section and 450-600 on the math section. There is some flexibility on these minimum scores on a case-by-case basis. Applicants for the specialist degree should have at least 500 in the verbal and at least 500 in the math sections.

I already have a graduate degree. Do I still have to take the GRE?

YES! Every applicant must submit *current* GRE scores, even if you already have a graduate degree. If you have taken the GRE within the past five years, you may be able to use those scores if they are high enough.

What courses will I take?

(Specialization areas subject to change according to online courses offered and cohort interests)

Core Courses (7)	Specialization Areas (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guided Teacher Inquiry• Teacher Leadership and School Change• Transforming the Curriculum• Differentiated Instruction• Data-Driven Decision Making• Educational Technology• Online Practicum/Portfolio preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading (courses may lead to reading endorsement)• Multi-disciplinary (from courses offered online in the School of Teaching and Learning)• Culturally Responsive Classroom Management• Media Literacy• Early learning