Certificate of Graduate Study
In Digital Literacy

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The Graduate Certificate in Digital Literacy is a 12-credit graduate program that enables educators, librarians and media professionals to acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies required for full participation in a read/write culture where active participation in a knowledge community requires the skillful use, creation and sharing of digital texts, tools and technologies. The concept of literacy is undergoing a profound transformation, as people now need new competencies to access, analyze, create, reflect and take action using digital tools, texts and technologies in all aspects of their lives: in the school and workplace, for home and leisure, and for social interaction, relationships and citizenship in a democratic society. This program is intentionally designed as an interdisciplinary program at the intersection of media studies and education in recognition of the diverse contexts in which learning occurs and the blurring boundaries between formal and informal learning.

Program Goals

> **Deepen your ability to read and critically analyze** the wide variety of texts available online and **learn practical strategies** that you can share with others

> Gain experience in **composing texts using digital media tools** that facilitate the use of language, image, sound and interactivity for digital sharing in global networked spaces

> **Understand** how digital media texts, tools and technologies reshape the nature of knowledge, impact personal and social relationships, and alter organizational practices in the workplace, school and community

> Work collaboratively with educators, librarians and media professionals to **design and create learning environments** where digital media resources are accessed, analyzed and created in ways that contribute to learning

> Develop and **apply leadership and change management skills** that enable you to promote and implement best practices in digital literacy education through direct impact in the community or workplace

> **Cultivate habits of mind** that support an expanded conceptualization of literacy as it applies to digital media environments, including tenacity, reflection, creativity, flexibility, and lifelong learning.
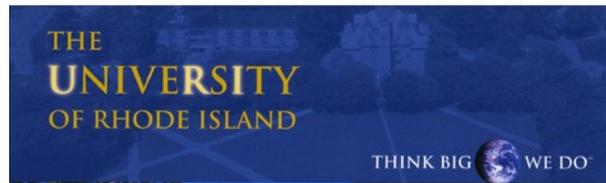
Coursework

The certificate program (which costs approximately $6200 total) consists of four rigorous courses, two that take place in the summer using a face-to-face institute model, and two online courses that are held during the fall and spring semesters. All courses have received accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). Courses are open to any graduate student in any program, and even to non- matriculating students who are interested in exploring one facet of the program before committing to the other courses. However, the courses have been designed to enable interested graduate students to be able to complete the program in one year's time; beginning their coursework in one summer and finishing the certificate at the end of the next summer. The four courses include:

> **EDC 531: Teaching and Learning with Digital Technologies. (Summer 1)** This course focuses on how literacy is changing as a result of emerging media and technologies. Students learn how to conduct project-based inquiry using a variety of digital tools to create challenging and engaging learning opportunities for their students.
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> **EDC 532: Seminar in Digital Literacy and Learning. (Fall Online)** This course focuses on understanding major theories of online and offline reading comprehension, how to assess online reading, and productive ways of teaching digital literacy skills in grades K-12.
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> **EDC 534: Seminar in Digital Authorship. (Spring Online)** This course involves students in a range of hands-on dynamic learning experiences that integrate digital media, technologies, and best practice strategies for teaching composition and authorship in a Web 2.0 world.
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> **EDC 535: Leading with Digital Literacy. (Summer 2)** This course focuses on leading and collaborating with face-to-face and digital tools to facilitate real and sustainable change in a range of educational contexts. Students gain hands-on practice in facilitation and design a robust action plan to deploy their vision for integrating digital literacy in their world of work.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Typically, students begin by registering for the Summer Institute in Digital Literacy in April (to reserve your spot). You can learn more about registering for the institute and watch a short video here: http://mediaeducationlab.com/summer-institute-digital-literacy

Then, at the Summer Institute (EDC 531), you will discuss with the Co-Directors options for enrolling in the fall and spring online courses and completing the 2nd summer institute course (EDC 535). To be considered for the entire four-course certificate, applicants must show evidence of ability to do graduate level course work. This ability is generally demonstrated by: (1) an undergraduate degree, (2) professional experience, and (3) quality performance during the F2F summer institutes. Applicants are required to complete the standard graduate school application, complete with undergraduate transcripts, a professional resume, a small application fee, two letters of recommendation, and a personal statement of interest. You can learn more at www.uri.edu/gsadmis/ but given the unique structure of our certificate program, final enrollment decisions should be discussed with the Co-Directors before formally applying to the Graduate School. Please note that tuition waivers do not apply to this program; contact Christine Dolan at Christine@uri.edu for more information about tuition costs.

Certificates are awarded when a student completes the four-course sequence with a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or greater. If needed, you can take the courses out of sequence to better meet your needs, although you should take Summer Institute Tier 1 prior to attending Summer Institute Tier 2. To be eligible for the certificate, you must take all four courses within four years. For more information about the certificate, the courses, and our faculty, please email Julie Coiro, PhD, Co-Director of the Graduate Certificate in Digital Literacy at jcoiro@uri.edu