

Certificate of Graduate Study in Digital Literacy

The Certificate of Graduate Study in Digital Literacy at the University of Rhode Island is a *proposed* 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.

Coursework. The program will be offered over the course of one year as a cohort program, where students begin the program during the summer with a face-to-face summer institute course, then complete two rigorous online courses during the fall and spring semesters, completing the program with a summer leadership course in facilitating digital literacy. The course sequence would be as follows:

- **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.
- **EDC 586: Seminar in Digital Literacy and Learning. (Fall)** 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.
- **EDC 532: Seminar in Digital Authorship. (Spring)** 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.
- **EDC 586: 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.

Program benefits include opportunities for students to:

- Deepen their 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 them 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

Anticipated Timeline. The proposal for the Graduate Certificate in Digital Literacy is under review at the University of Rhode Island during the Spring Semester 2014. If accepted by June 2014, the sequence of courses will begin in July 2014 and the first cohort of students would complete their certificate in August 2015. The table below outlines the timing of each of the courses for the next two cohorts.

COURSE	SU 14	FA 14	SP 15	SU 15	FA 15	SP 16
EDC 531: Teaching and Learning with Digital Technologies (Summer)	X			X		
EDC 586: Seminar in Digital Literacy and Learning (Fall)		X			X	
EDC 534: Seminar in Digital Authorship (Spring)			X			X
EDC 586: Leading with Digital Literacy (Summer)	X			X		

The **lead instructors** for the Graduate Certificate in Digital Literacy include:

- Dr. Julie Coiro, Associate Professor, School of Education, jcoiro@mail.uri.edu
- Dr. Renee Hobbs, Professor, Harrington School of Communication and Media, hobbs@uri.edu

To learn more about the Teaching and Learning with Digital Technologies course, which uses a Summer Institute model, watch the video from 2013 and learn how to register for July 2014 at: <http://mediaeducationlab.com/summer-institute-digital-literacy>

For more details about course syllabi or other questions about this exciting new certificate opportunity now under review, please contact Julie Coiro jcoiro@mail.uri.edu or Renee Hobbs hobbs@uri.edu.