The University of Akron offers a Reading Endorsement that can be added to any standard teaching license including Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, Intervention Specialist, Adolescence to Young Adult and Multi-Age License.

The endorsement requires 18 semester hours of instruction. Courses in the program are designed to fulfill requirements for the graduate reading endorsement (P-12). The program is aligned to the International Literacy Association (ILA) standards and the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Board of Regents.

**Candidate Requirements:**
1) Possess a current Ohio educator license
2) Have 12 hours of undergraduate or graduate reading coursework for those who hold the Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, or Intervention Specialist license.
   Or
   Have 9 hours of undergraduate or graduate level reading sequence coursework if he/she holds an Adolescent/Young Adult (AYA) or multi-age license.
3) Complete the Reading Endorsement Program as outlined by the Ohio Board of Regents that consists of six courses (18 hours). The candidate may apply one 3 credit hour course of prior undergraduate coursework if earned *within the last 6 years*. Those 3 hours cannot be applied toward a Master's degree.
4) All students must take the following **REQUIRED COURSES** as part of the 18 hours:
   1) 5500:625 Contemporary Issues in Literacy Instruction and Phonics (3 cr.)
   2) 5500:626 Assessment of Reading Difficulties [prerequisite 5500:625] (3 cr.)
   3) 5500:628 Literacy Assessment Practicum [prerequisite 5500:626] (3 cr.)
5) Pass the two required Ohio Assessments for Educators (OAE) sub-tests (test numbers 038 and 039) before applying for the reading endorsement through The University of Akron Student Services Office.

**Undergraduate Candidates Seeking the Reading Endorsement**
The reading endorsement is not offered at the undergraduate level. However, the Graduate School can give Graduate Status classification to undergraduates. This allows undergraduate students to take one or more graduate-level courses if all the following conditions are met:
1) The student has completed all four undergraduate literacy courses.
2) The student is a senior and has completed at least 96 hours of undergraduate work.
3) The student has a 3.0 GPA or higher.
4) The student’s advisor confirms the above and gives permission.
5) The instructor gives written permission.

Graduate courses may later be applied to a degree program if not used to satisfy baccalaureate degree requirements. The maximum number of graduate credits that may be taken by an undergraduate and applied later toward a graduate degree is 12. If the graduate courses taken as an undergraduate are applied to a graduate program, the 6-year timeframe allowed to complete the master’s degree program begins with the oldest course.

**Note:** Students who take a graduate level course that is NOT counting towards an undergraduate degree are Special Non-Degree Students and, therefore, are probably not eligible for financial aid from the Graduate School. Check with the Graduate School and Financial Aid regarding this issue.

**Enrollment in the master's degree program is not a requirement for enrollment in the reading endorsement.**