

English Language Arts Endorsement FAQs

What is the difference between the retiring English endorsement and the new English Language Arts (ELA) endorsement?

The *retiring English endorsement* requirements require educators to complete coursework and pass the Praxis 5039 exam with a score of 162 or higher. The application lists the types of courses required. The retiring endorsement is no longer an option for educators to begin after June 30, 2023. All requirements must be completed by June 30, 2025.

The *new ELA endorsement* is competency-based meaning that an educator can use various pieces of evidence to demonstrate competency. The endorsement application lists the types of evidence accepted which include coursework, Praxis 5038 or 5039, microcredential completion, degrees earned, or certain types of professional experiences.

Educators can mix-and-match the types of evidence they submit for the competency-based endorsement. For example, an educator may complete the “Adolescent Literacy Development” competency area using coursework, and then, complete the “Creating Texts” and “Teaching Text Creation” competency areas through participation in a National Writing Project or through microcredentials.

What is the difference between an associate vs. a professional level ELA endorsement?

An associate level endorsement means that an educator has met a minimum level of requirements towards the ELA endorsement allowing them to teach in that content area while they complete all of the endorsement requirements for a professional endorsement. Once an associate level ELA endorsement is awarded, an educator then is given a three-year time frame to complete all of the requirements for a professional level ELA endorsement.

What requirements must be met to earn an associate level ELA endorsement?

For the *retiring English endorsement*, an educator must have: 1) earned an English degree OR 2) passed the Praxis 5039 exam with a score of 162 or higher OR 3) completed three requirement areas. If an educator is applying through out-of-state (OOS), then a year of experience in another state counts toward the Praxis requirement. An educator can receive an associate level endorsement using the retiring route before June 30, 2023. They then have until June 30, 2025 to complete all of the requirements OR they must switch to the new endorsement route.

For the *new English Language Arts (ELA) endorsement*, an educator must have: 1) earned a bachelor's or higher degree in English (composition or literature-focused) or Mass Communication, 2) completed 3 of the 9 requirement areas, OR 3) earned a passing score of 167 or higher on Praxis 5038 or a score of 162 on Praxis 5039. A passing score on Praxis 5038 or 5039 provides evidence for competency areas 2, 4, 6, and 8.

A Praxis exam is no longer required for this new endorsement route.

Should an educator pursue the English/ELA endorsement using the retiring route or the new competency-based route?

It really depends on an educator's prior coursework, previous exams taken, experience, and preference.

Can an educator earn the associate level ELA endorsement using the retiring application and then complete the professional level endorsement using the new competency-based requirements?

Yes. After receiving the associate level endorsement, they would still need to complete all of the professional level endorsement requirements in three years.

Does the new competency-based ELA endorsement require a certain number of credit hours?

No. The requirement areas listed on the application are *competencies* and not course names. One course can meet multiple competencies. For example, if a university has had their coursework approved by USBE, the Young Adult Literature course that they offer (a course requirement for competency area #2 on the ELA endorsement) may also teach students about adolescent literacy development (competency area #1) and how to critically select and teach texts (competency area #4). This Young Adult Literature course would then meet each of these 3 competencies. The educator would list this course under each of the 3 competency areas on the application.

Additionally, there is no course-hour minimum requirement for the new competency-based endorsement.

Is passing a Praxis exam required for the ELA endorsement?

Praxis 5039 is only a requirement for the *retiring English endorsement*. Educators may choose to use a score of 167 or higher on Praxis 5038 or 5039 to meet competency areas 2, 4, 6, and 8 on the new ELA competency-based endorsement.

Where can an educator take courses to meet the ELA endorsement requirements?

The Utah State Board of Education (USBE), in partnership with Southern Utah University (SUU), offers [some of the English language arts endorsement courses via USBE Instructure](#). These courses were originally developed for the retiring English endorsement (the course names align to the retiring endorsement), but they have the following **equivalencies to the new ELA competency-based endorsement**:

Adolescent Literature

- #1 Adolescent Literacy Development
- #2 Young Adult Literature (one of the required courses for Critically Interpreting Texts)

Content Area Literacy Instruction

- #1 Adolescent Literacy Development
- #3 Selecting & Teaching Texts

Teaching Secondary ELA

- #3 Selecting & Teaching Texts
- #7 Teaching Language & Sociolinguistics
- #9 Teaching Speaking & Listening

Teaching Writing

- #5 Teaching Text Creation

University Courses that Meet the New ELA Endorsement Requirements

Utah universities have until June 30, 2025 to align their courses to the new ELA endorsement requirements. The following universities have received approval for their courses. Visit the link below to view information about the offered courses and contact information for each university. If a Utah university is not listed below, then its courses have not been approved for the new endorsement.

- [Utah State University](#)
- [University of Utah](#)

General Literature or Writing Courses

USBE does not offer general literature or writing courses; however, all accredited universities and colleges offer literature and writing courses. Educators will need to contact universities and colleges for their most current course offerings and admission policies. Generally, a course name, course description, and/or course syllabus that mentions the focus of the literature studied will help determine the literature tradition focus.

For example:

American Literature of the West course = American Literature

Shakespeare course = British Literature

African American Literature course = American Literature

Contemporary World Literature course = Contemporary OR World Literature

Diverse Women Writers course = Depends (a course description or syllabus may be necessary to determine)

Intro to Poetry course = Depends (a course description or syllabus may be necessary to determine)

Adolescent Literature course or Literature for Young Adults course = Young Adult Literature (note that "Children's Literature" is not an equivalent)

Please contact Dr. Naomi Watkins: naomi.watkins@schools.utah.gov if you have questions about specific coursework that are not answered here.

What if an educator has taken courses that have not been USBE approved for the new ELA endorsement?

Please contact Dr. Naomi Watkins: naomi.watkins@schools.utah.gov if you have questions about specific coursework that are not answered here.

What if an educator has experience teaching secondary English language arts or secondary reading? Does that teaching experience equate to an endorsement?

No. Time spent teaching in a classroom does not necessarily equate to competency. Microcredentials are suggested for experienced educators to demonstrate their competency.

An educator has an elementary teaching license and now wants to teach middle school ELA. Do they need an ELA endorsement?

Yes. An elementary teaching license allows educators to teach grades K-8. Educators need an ELA endorsement to teach ELA in the middle school setting (grades 6-8). However, if 6th grade ELA is housed in an elementary school, an educator does not need the ELA endorsement for this teaching assignment.

An educator wants to teach journalism or speech/debate. Which endorsement should they earn?

USB E no longer offers specific endorsements to educators for journalism or speech/debate.

If educators are interested in teaching journalism and/or other English elective courses, they should earn the new ELA endorsement.

If educators are interested in teaching speech or debate, they can do so with the following endorsements: English Language Arts (ELA), History, Political Science, or Social Studies Composite.

What are microcredentials? How do I earn them?

Microcredentials are one type of evidence that educators can submit to show competency for some of the requirement areas on the new ELA endorsement and Secondary Literacy Interventionist endorsement.

- [General information about microcredentials](#)

Earning microcredentials assumes that an educator already has the knowledge and skills to show mastery of the endorsement competency areas. Microcredentials require that educators submit evidence in the form of such items as lesson plans, unit plans, student data, videos of teaching, reflections, etc.

Microcredentials do not teach content and may not be the best option for all educators.

Which microcredentials do I need to complete for the new ELA endorsement?

The list of required microcredentials is on the application.

You can also search in MIDAS for a microcredential by its name.

When will the microcredentials for the ELA endorsement be available to earn?

The new ELA endorsement microcredentials are currently being piloted and should be available Fall/Winter 2022.

Will a master's degree in English meet all of the requirement areas for an ELA endorsement?

No. While a master's degree may meet some of the requirements for the ELA endorsement, it does not equate to a professional level endorsement.