RICA Advisory
for
Special Education Credential Students

California requires that candidates for its Education Specialist* (Special Education) credentials pass the Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA) to receive a credential in their program.

The content knowledge necessary to pass the RICA is provided throughout CSULA’s Education Specialist Credential classes, but especially in:

The Division of Special Education
- EDSP 450  Teaching Students with Mild-Severe Disabilities
- EDSP 552  Reading and Writing Disabilities I
- EDSP 553  Reading and Writing Disabilities II

The Division of Curriculum and Instruction
- EDEL 405  Language Development in the Elementary Schools
- EDEL 415 (or 415S)†  Curriculum and Teaching of Reading
- EDEL 416 (or 416S)†  Curriculum and Teaching of Writing/Language Arts

Test-taking strategies for the RICA are provided to CSULA students through the RICA Test Taking Strategies Seminar, taught each quarter the Saturday before each quarter (except when adjustments need to be made for holidays).

Effective Fall 2001 attendance at the RICA Seminar is required for all Charter College of Education students who are required to take the RICA. Students may attend the RICA Seminar as soon as they have completed EDEL 415 but no later than the quarter in which they enroll in EDSP 407-9 (Student Teaching) or EDSP 489-9 (Demonstration of Instructional Competencies).

Students must pre-register to attend the RICA Seminar. Take-one registration forms are available in the following locations:
- Outside the Office of Student Services, King Hall D 2078, in a black plastic holder
- Outside the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, King Hall C 2097, in metal file drawers
- Outside of the Literacy Lab, King Hall C2092 A, in a take-one envelope
- Outside of King Hall C 2058, in a take-one envelope

- For students in the Visual Impairment and Physical and Health Impairments programs, you should plan to take the RICA after you complete your methods courses.
- For students in the Mild-to-Moderate and Moderate-to-Severe programs, you should plan to take the RICA after you complete EDSP 552.

* Students working on the Orientation and Mobility or Early Childhood Special Education Credential programs are not required to take the RICA
† Before September 1998 these courses were known as EDEL 400 or 400S

(Aug 01/ Nov 04)