

IMSE CERTIFICATION

# Information and Application Manual 2026-2027



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# IMSE CERTIFICATION INFORMATION and APPLICATION MANUAL

2026-2027

## WHY EDUCATORS AND DISTRICTS CHOOSE IMSE'S PRACTICUMS

IMSE's Interventionist and Specialist practicums support the high-fidelity implementation of IMSE's Structured Literacy-aligned instruction. Participants enter each practicum with a strong instructional foundation from the corresponding pre-practicum coursework and work closely with a dedicated practicum supervisor who provides ongoing feedback, instructional resources, and individualized support to ensure effective and faithful implementation of IMSE's intervention strategies.

Upon successful completion of the practicum and certification requirements, graduates gain access to the following benefits:

- A direct pathway to the International Dyslexia Association's Center for Effective Reading Instruction (CERI) certifications
- Recognition as IMSE Orton-Gillingham-certified educators, with listing on IMSE's website
- Eligibility for listing on the Learning Ally website as Orton-Gillingham-certified educators.

## OVERVIEW OF THE TWO IMSE CERTIFICATION OPTIONS

- **IMSE's Interventionist Certification:** Those who complete IMSE's OG+ package and the Interventionist practicum will achieve the Interventionist Certification through IMSE and are also eligible to apply for CERI's Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist certificate.
- **IMSE's Specialist Certification:** Those who have completed the IMSE's Interventionist Certification may work towards IMSE's Specialist Certification by completing the Morphology Plus package and the Specialist practicum. They will achieve the Specialist Certification through IMSE, and are also eligible to apply for CERI's Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist Certification.

## APPLICATION WINDOW (see FAQs below)

IMSE's certification application window will be open from May 1 until August 30. **All applications received within this window will receive equal consideration.** An IMSE panel will review applications using an internal rubric to evaluate qualified applicants.

## IMSE PRACTICUM FAQS

### **Am I eligible to apply for a practicum?**

#### **Educational Requirements**

All applicants must hold both of the following:

- A Bachelor's degree or higher in education (teaching, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, social work or psychology)
- A valid teaching certificate or educational licensure

Applicants who do not hold a valid teaching certificate or educational licensure must provide one of the following in place of the license:

- A letter on school letterhead confirming current employment and verification of a passed background check, or
- Proof of an independently completed background check (must be FBI-level and include fingerprinting) if the applicant is not currently employed by a school.

Applicants who hold a Bachelor's degree in a field other than education may contact [certification@imse.com](mailto:certification@imse.com) to request a waiver form.

#### **Course Requirements**

##### **Interventionist Practicum**

All applicants must complete the following:

- OG+ course (including the OG+ Asynchronous Fluency, Vocabulary, Comprehension Course)
- Phonological Awareness course (live or asynchronous)
- Key Assessments Package (available March 2026)
  - The \$150 fee will be applied to your practicum fee

Click [HERE](#) to view the live virtual or asynchronous OG+ and Phonological Awareness course schedules.

Click [HERE](#) to purchase the Asynchronous Phonological Awareness course.

Applicants must apply for the practicum within 24 months of completing the OG+ course. Anyone outside of the two-year window must retake the course, which will be offered at a discounted rate. Please contact [certification@imse.com](mailto:certification@imse.com) for more information.

## Specialist Practicum

All applicants must complete the following:

- Interventionist Practicum
- Morphology+ course (including the Writing and Grammar course and the Encoding and Decoding Plus course)
- Student-Centered Teaching
- Science of Reading course
- Key Assessments Package (available March 2026)
  - The \$150 fee will be applied to your practicum fee

Applicants must apply for the practicum within 24 months of completing the Morphology+ course. Anyone outside of the two-year window must retake the course, which will be offered at a discounted rate. Please contact [certification@imse.com](mailto:certification@imse.com) for more information.

## **Student Requirements**

### Interventionist Practicum

Participants must work with students who have a demonstrated need for literacy intervention. IMSE requires you to select one primary *focus student* and recommends that you select one *backup student*. Instruction may be delivered one-on-one or in a small group of not more than three. All students must be at least five years old by September 1.

### Specialist Practicum

Participants must work with **two** students who have a demonstrated need for literacy intervention. These students must have different learning needs and require separate instruction, held twice a week for 25 weeks. Participants must work with a total of three students with heterogeneous learning needs across the two practicums. Instruction must include advanced phonics as well as morphology-based intervention. All students must be at least eight years old by September 1.

## **If I complete an IMSE Practicum, will I be eligible for certifications through CERI?**

Educators who complete one practicum may apply for CERI's Structured Literacy Dyslexia Interventionist certification.

Educators who complete both IMSE practicums may apply for CERI's Structured Literacy Dyslexia Specialist Certification.

## **How long am I eligible to apply for the practicum?**

Applicants must apply for their practicum within 24 months of completing the required OG+ or Morphology+ course associated with their practicum level. Applicants who are outside the two-year window must retake that course, which will be offered at a discounted rate. Please contact [certification@imse.com](mailto:certification@imse.com) for further details.

## **When can I apply for the practicum?**

Practicum enrollment opens annually from **May 1 through August 30**.

**The application is only available during this timeframe** and only to applicants who meet the eligibility requirements.

## **Where do I go to apply?**

**You must be logged in to your IMSE account, then click *OG Certification Program*.**

The application is only accessible from May 1 to August 30 and only to applicants who meet the eligibility requirements.

## **What is required for the practicum application?**

The following requirements must be uploaded to the online application. It is best to gather everything you need before enrollment opens:

- A valid teaching certificate or educational licensure.
- Original transcripts or copies from your college/university.
  - The transcripts must reflect the completion of a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- Two letters of recommendation.
  - One must come from an administrator or supervisor.
  - One can be from a co-worker or the parent of a student.
  - Both letters must include contact information and should speak to your strengths as an educator.
  - Can be addressed *To Whom It May Concern* or *Certification Team*
- Certificate of completion from the Key Assessment Package (available March 2026)

## **When will I find out if I am accepted into the practicum?**

All candidates will be notified via email by **5 p.m. EST on October 1** regarding their acceptance status, **regardless of when their application was submitted during the enrollment window.**

If you do not receive an email by this date, please check your spam folder first. If you are still unable to locate it, please contact [certification@imse.com](mailto:certification@imse.com) for assistance.

## **How much does the practicum cost?**

### **Practicum Fee: \$2,350**

- \$150 Key Assessment Package (credited to practicum fee)
- \$100 Nonrefundable Application Fee (regardless of acceptance).
  - Due when the application is submitted
- Practicum Fee Balance: \$2,100
  - Due before submission of the first lesson plan reflection

A 12-month subscription to IMSE Lab is included with the practicum fee.

### **Participants are responsible for purchasing the following books required to complete certification assignments:**

#### **Interventionist Practicum**

- Shaywitz, S. (2020). *Overcoming Dyslexia: A New and Complete Science-Based Program for Reading Problems at Any Level* (2nd ed.).
- Moats, L. C. (2020). *Speech to Print: Language Essentials for Teachers* (3rd ed.).

#### **Specialist Practicum**

- Hegland, S. S. (2021). *Beneath the surface of words*.
- Hennessy, N. L., & Salamone, J. A. (2024). *The reading comprehension blueprint activity book*.

## **How long will the practicum take?**

The practicum is designed to be completed within nine to twelve months and must be finished within 12 months from the start date. Additional fees will apply if an extension is needed.

Participants must ensure consistent access to their practicum student for the full 12 months, with the exception of standard school vacation weeks and holidays.

### **How much time will I spend on the practicum each week?**

This will vary depending on several factors. On average, participants can expect to spend five hours per week on their practicum. You may consider this process similar to a rigorous graduate-level course.

### **Do I have to wait for the acceptance notification to work with my students?**

No, please begin working with your students as soon as you can. We never want to withhold academic support. Assessment should be well underway before notification of acceptance is received. You may begin drafting an Initial Assessment Report immediately or after consulting with your Practicum Supervisor, who will be assigned when you are accepted into the practicum. Other than assessment, no other work completed with your student before acceptance may be submitted for your practicum.

### **Can I work with students virtually?**

Yes, practicum participants can work with students in person or virtually.

### **May I use IMSE's OG strategies without being certified?**

The practicum is not required to begin using IMSE OG strategies with students. Educators are encouraged to apply the skills and materials gained from their training courses when providing reading instruction.

However, many educators choose to pursue certification for the added confidence that comes with supervised practice and the additional academic content that supports their professional or personal goals.

### **What credits are available for completing the practicum?**

IMSE's practicums are approved for graduate credits through Ashland University in Ohio and Northwest Nazarene University in Idaho.

To be eligible for graduate credit, participants must complete **all** practicum requirements. For Interventionist participants, this includes passing the KPEERI exam; for Specialist participants, this includes passing the Specialist exam.

Graduate credit application instructions will be sent with your certification exit documents.

To see if professional development credits are available in your state, please click [here](#).

## Overview of Practicum Requirements

### Practicum Requirements

Specific requirements of both the Interventionist and Specialist Certifications will be outlined in the IMSE's Certification Expectations Manual, which you will receive when your practicum begins. In summary, requirements include:

- Assessing your student regularly, and analyzing the data in Initial and Final Assessment reports (Specialists submit reports for two students as well as a Student Analysis and Learning Plan).
- Creating and implementing 25 weekly lesson plans. Each lesson must include two hours of direct instruction that includes all components of IMSE's lesson plans, delivered in at least two sessions per week.
- Submitting weekly lesson plan reflections that include student work samples and assessment data.
- Recording at least 15 video observations (13 for Specialists) demonstrating each component of IMSE's routines over the course of the practicum. This requires you to have a working knowledge of technology, including recording, creating links, and working with PDFs.
- Completing assignments in your practicum course, including accountable reading quizzes, discussion boards, and practicum course modules.
- Passing the KPEERI (or Specialist Exam) after completing all other practicum requirements.

**If you have any further questions about certification or the practicum process, please contact the Certification Department at [cetification@imse.com](mailto:cetification@imse.com) or 800-646-9788, extension 2001**

## **DISCLAIMER**

The policies, regulations, procedures, and fees in this document are subject to change without prior notice, if necessary, to keep in compliance with the Institute for Multi-Sensory Education.

The Institute for Multi-Sensory Education reserves the right to change curricula, rules, fees, and other requirements, of whatever type, for the betterment of the practicum.

The nonrefundable application fee will be processed regardless of acceptance into the practicum.

Upon completion of the practicum, candidates are certified to teach students in the IMSE OG methodology. Candidates are not certified or permitted to teach other educators/instructors how to implement IMSE's OG. All materials are copyrighted and solely owned by IMSE. Unlawful use of our materials is not permitted. Anyone interested in pursuing a career as an IMSE OG Instructor can submit their resume to [https://imse.com/careers/?edit\\_off=true](https://imse.com/careers/?edit_off=true).

Failure to comply with any of the requirements of IMSE's practicum may result in removal from the practicum. The free IMSE digital planning tool and other provided resources are only available to those actively enrolled in the practicum.