

**Postgraduate Certificate in Educational Studies (Middle Years Literacies)**

**Faculty of Education**

**1 Background**

The Catholic Education Office (CEO) have developed a comprehensive professional development program for their schools in literacy in the early years of schooling, but they are discovering that the strategies within that program are not effective in meeting the demands of literacy in the Middle Years (5-9). This program is focussed on developing more advanced command of literacy in terms of the four macro skills and their integration in the middle years.

In all sectors of schooling, there has been an intense focus in developing literacy in the early years. This has produced the Early Years program in government schools, and CLASS (Children's Literacy Success Strategy) in the Catholic sector. These programs have been highly successful in measurably increasing the literacy outcomes for students in the lower year levels, but students often plateau and even regress once they come into the middle years. In particular, while their decoding skills are often excellent, their comprehension skills are not. Their oral language skills also are often poor. Transferring the early years strategies to middle years classrooms has proved to be no solution. The Catholic Education Office has approached the Faculty of Education to provide a program for their teachers based on the best current knowledge of effective practice in literacy education in the middle years. The program aims to introduce productive ways of developing sophisticated capacity in the four macro skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and in integrating them within the curriculum. It also addresses teaching these skills in relation to the many different kinds of literacy (visual, computer, etc.) that older children have to deal with in their multi-textual world. The Middle Years Literacies stream will be available to all teachers, and not restricted to the cohort sponsored by the Catholic Education Office.

**2 Course/Program Objectives**

Students completing the Middle Years Literacies Stream should:

- have knowledge of current research in teaching literacy to middle years students;
- have the ability to recognise the specific literacy learning needs of students;
- have awareness of classroom strategies for developing their students' language and literacy skills;
- understand the diversity of the textual modes and types that students need to master, and have the capacity to work with students in achieving this.
- understand the importance of developing their students' capacity for critical and creative practice across the range of literacies they use.

**3 Entry Requirements**

An applicant may be eligible for entry into the Postgraduate Certificate in Educational Studies if the applicant has:

- completed an approved degree and an approved teaching qualification; or
- completed an approved four-year teaching degree; or
- completed an approved equivalent qualification which is recognised by the Faculty as evidence of adequate preparation for the course and has a record of professional or teaching experience in a field and at a level acceptable to the Faculty.

#### **4 Course/Program Structure**

Students will complete fifty points of study, consisting of four compulsory subjects:

483-www	Reading for Engagement and Comprehension	12.5 points
483-xxx	Oral Language for Literacy and Learning	12.5 points
483-yyy	Engaging Students with Writing	12.5 points
483-zzz	Literacy Programming for Diverse Learners	12.5 points

#### **5 Availability of Course**

The course will be available from Semester 1 2007, to fee-paying overseas students, fee-paying Australian students and CSP students.