**Literacy Department Mission Statement**

The Literacy Department educates preservice and professional teachers to be lifelong learners who develop expert knowledge of language and literacy development and literacy instruction and assessment. Our students will become influential teachers who are leaders and advocates for social justice in their communities.

The Literacy Department’s vision is aligned with the University’s vision and the College of Education and Social Work’s mission and student learning outcomes. The CESW’s six student learning outcomes are elaborated upon to reflect the Literacy Department’s goals and vision.

* **Evidence-based decision makers.** Candidates use the most current research in the literacy field to select best practices for the students they teach.
* **Life-long learners.** Candidates pursue professional development opportunities through post graduate education and literacy advocacy organizations throughout the course of their careers.
* **Scholars.** Candidates create new knowledge as they conduct research, critically evaluate literacy learning, and design curriculum and assessment.
* **Implementers of innovative and applied technology.**  Candidates use digital and other literacies to construct knowledge and develop learning opportunities for their students. Their use of multiliteracies transforms the teaching-learning process and encourages their students to collaborate with other learners at local, national and global levels.
* **Social justice advocates**. Candidates view literacy knowledge as essential for students to reach their potential as both learners and workers in 21st century society. They find ways to make the literacy and learning environment more equitable for all.
* **Reflective and skilled practitioners.** Candidates develop a clearly articulated philosophy of literacy teaching, reflect on their practice, and identify methods to make their teaching more responsive to student needs.

**Program Outcomes**

[Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)](http://www.shsu.edu/academics/education/center-for-assessment-and-accreditation/accreditation/ncate/transition-to-caep.html)

[The International Literacy Association’s Professional Standards](https://www.literacyworldwide.org/get-resources/standards/standards-for-reading-professionals)

[Pennsylvania Department of Education](http://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx)