

Qualifications to Deliver Wilson Reading System® (WRS) Training

At Wilson we know that when the Wilson Reading System® is delivered with fidelity and as prescribed by a qualified teacher or tutor, it works. We also know that critical factor for student success is teacher knowledge. Therefore, we are committed to upholding the highest standards for Wilson® training and certification.

To achieve this, Wilson Language Training provides extensive teacher training in the Wilson Reading System. The WRS Level I Certification program requires 90 hours of online instruction and a 60-hour practicum with a student and individual lessons including demonstration, observation and feedback meeting time with a Wilson Trainer. The time, effort, and study involved with this program are considerable. Each trainee is expected to acquire a very sophisticated working knowledge of the sound-symbol system of English (phonology) and its structure (morphology) as well as the use of specific diagnostic techniques in the teaching of reading and spelling.

Individuals who have successfully met all the requirements of the Level I Training receive Level I Certification in the Wilson Reading System. Wilson also offers a Level II Certification program to prepare teachers to successfully deliver the program to groups of students as well as teach advanced concepts of language structure.

While some teachers with multisensory structured language training have been able to use the WRS program and materials with a degree of success after attending the three-day Wilson Introductory Workshop, they are not considered trained in the Wilson Reading System. Our policy to recommend only Wilson Level I or II certified teachers is our way of assuring the integrity of the program and that it is being implemented in the way it was designed. Only Level I or II certified individuals can represent themselves as Wilson certified teachers.

Other than Wilson Language Training (WLT), only In-District Partners (qualified school districts under contract with Wilson), and Accredited Wilson Training Partners are licensed to deliver the above described Wilson® training to teachers and tutors. WLT vigorously protects against others delivering “Wilson Training” in order to maintain the integrity of our programs. In order to become a Wilson Training Partner, an organization must successfully complete a robust accreditation review process. Prerequisites include having a qualified Wilson Trainer, as defined by WLT, on staff or available by contract.

Each year, Wilson invites a limited number of applicants to train for one full year as Wilson Trainer interns. Individuals who successfully complete their internship become Wilson Trainers who can then conduct and/or supervise Wilson workshops, seminars, practicum observations, and other Wilson professional development programs. The requirements to become a Wilson Trainer are significant. The prerequisite certification requirements take typically 3 years to complete and the Wilson trainer internship is a full school-year.

The WRS Trainer Intern must participate in all professional development including:

- Attend initial 3-day session at Wilson Language Training in Oxford, MA
- Intern at a WRS Level I site with a Wilson trainer during the subsequent school year and obtain a satisfactory appraisal from the supervising trainer
- Observe Start-Up Seminar
- Conduct practicum observations and provide support for five participants
- Assist trainer with five Implementation Meetings
- Attend the 3-day spring intern development session at Wilson Language Training in Oxford, MA
- Observe and assist at a WRS Introductory Workshop® / Applied Methods
- Obtain adequate evaluation from supervising Wilson trainer

Prerequisites:

- Successful completion of Wilson Certification through Level II
- Proficiency with Wilson programs
- Master’s degree in education or related field
- Substantial background and experience in education
- Being a natural with multisensory language teaching
- Extensive experience with varying age groups
- The personality and character needed for instructing, guiding, and mentoring adults
- Trainer Application submitted and approved by WLT

When an organization has a Trainer on staff or under contract and a license has been granted to deliver Wilson training as a Wilson Training Partner, there are considerable safeguards and requirements imposed to ensure that Wilson® programs are delivered effectively and with fidelity.

We enforce our intellectual property rights to prevent others from creating Wilson training materials so that we may ensure they meet our quality criteria, consistently identify our products, and are faithful to the principles of instruction that have made the Wilson Reading System work for so many struggling readers.