

WRS Steps 1-6 Practicum Getting Started Information



Wilson Reading System® (WRS) Level I Certification Completion Requirements

- ✓ WRS Intensive Instruction for the Nonresponsive Reader (Steps 1-6) online course: all course content, required readings, and exams completed. You will have 12 months from the start date to complete all course requirements. *
- ✓ Appropriately access WRS Steps 1-6 Practicum Dashboard online resources (observation and meeting scheduling tool, videos, forms, etc.)
- ✓ Practicum student pretesting and submission of the **Practicum Student Profile Report**. Note: submitted normed reading test scores must be recent (within last six months). Wilson® Credentialed Trainer approval of appropriate practicum student selection is required. Lessons with student shall not begin until official approval is received from the assigned Wilson Credentialed Trainer. Submission of **WRS Practicum Student Release Form** is also required prior to observations.
- ✓ Practicum: 1:1 student instruction with a minimum of 65 full lessons of instruction. Teachers need to be able to document a written lesson plan for each delivered lesson. During the first lesson the WADE is administered. Submission of the WADE Summary of Scores and the Spelling Response Forms is required. (See FAQ section of this document for guidance.)
- ✓ Five teacher/student observations, as scheduled by/with the Wilson Credentialed Trainer (each observation lesson is approximately one hour in length with an additional 10-15 minutes for a debrief meeting with the trainer). Teacher needs to provide appropriate environment for observation to occur. Student needs to be available long enough for teacher to demonstrate a full WRS lesson. All program and lesson related materials need to be present, including Teacher Binder, Student Portfolio, and program materials.
- ✓ Development and appropriate maintenance of a Teacher Binder and a Student Portfolio in accordance with WLT program standards.
- ✓ Demonstration of mastered lesson plan procedures (documented by the assigned Wilson Credentialed Trainer). All lesson procedures on the final observation form (see **WRS Steps 1-6 Practicum/Participant Study Guide for details**) need a passing score of “3” or higher.
- ✓ Demonstration of understanding of language concepts through accurate teaching with multisensory procedures. Teacher will need to demonstrate that the Wilson Reading System has been implemented according to the WRS Instructor Manual and WRS Intensive Instruction for the Nonresponsive Reader (Steps 1-6) online course.
- ✓ Demonstration of student success and mastery. This includes appropriate pacing of student through the curriculum, with accurate maintenance of WRS Wordlist Charts and WRS End-of-Step Assessment Lessons.
- ✓ Completion of end-of-training post-testing and timely submission of the **Practicum Student Final Report** after a minimum of 65 lessons and student achievement of WRS Substep 4.2. Final testing includes re-administration of the normed reading test used for pretesting and the Word Identification Spelling Test (WIST).
- ✓ All practicum requirements listed above need to be completed 12 months from the start date. *

Upon Completion of WRS Level I Certification Requirements



Participants who have successfully completed all the requirements listed above as determined by the assigned Wilson Credentialed Trainer have demonstrated mastery of the Wilson lesson plan, including multisensory techniques and effective strategies for working 1:1 and therefore will receive a WRS Level I Certificate from Wilson Language Training®. They can represent themselves as Wilson® Level I Certified Instructors but are not qualified as Wilson Credentialed Trainers. Beginning in 2016, individuals who successfully complete all program requirements earn the distinction of a Wilson® Dyslexia Practitioner (W.D.P.). The W.D.P. credential will need to be renewed every five years as defined and required by Wilson Language Training.

**The Level I Certification course enrollment expires 12 months from start date. Please see your Wilson Academy® My Transcript page for expiration date. Participants need to contact WLT one month prior to enrollment end date (and no later than one-month past enrollment end date) to inquire about extensions to the course. All extension requests are subject to review by the Wilson® Certification Board and are not guaranteed. Extension fees will apply.*

WRS Level I Practicum Student Selection Criteria

Student entering grades 4 – 12 (grade 3 approved if student has been retained) *

Overall cognitive ability in average range (minimum IQ = 80)

Overall reading must be ranked in the 5th to 30th percentile with a minimum total reading score of grade 2.0 *

Student's listening comprehension ability is higher compared to independent reading comprehension

Student has poor decoding and spelling

Student must be available to receive two full WRS lessons per week, at a minimum — lessons may be scheduled at a minimum of four to five 45-minute lessons or three 60-90-minute lessons (1:1) per week

The practicum student must not have had any previous Wilson Reading System® instruction

The practicum situation works best when the selected student has a consistent attendance record and does not have overriding emotional or behavioral issues

The above criteria should be determined from school records and current testing. Testing must be completed for selection within the past six months. The Word Identification and Spelling Test (WIST) must be administered. A second-normed reading assessment is also required. The following tests are recommended: Woodcock Reading Mastery Test III, Woodcock-Johnson IV, Woodcock-Johnson III Diagnostic Reading Battery, Wechsler Individual Achievement Test, Third Edition or Fourth Edition, or Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Third Edition is recommended. A similar, individualized reading assessment may be substituted if it provides information regarding decoding (word attack), comprehension and total reading. Training participants must discuss using a substitute test with their assigned Wilson® Credentialed Trainer. Approval may be obtained from the trainer, upon consultation with Wilson Language Training®.

*Note: These requirements for the practicum student to be entering grades 4 – 12 and reading at a grade level 2.0 are necessary for the purposes of this certification training. The final observation must take place in WRS Substep 4.2 or higher. Following these guidelines will allow the teacher to complete the training in the allotted time. The Wilson Reading System is an appropriate remedial approach for students in grades 2 through adulthood, even if they are non-readers.

Practicum Student Profile Report: Pretesting/Student Approval Process

Pretest student with the selected normed reading test and the WIST. You may use normed reading test scores that reflect recent results (within the last six months). **Practicum Student Profile Report: Pretesting** must be submitted to the assigned Wilson Credentialed Trainer, as well as the **Practicum Student Release Form**.

It is important that the information on the Practicum Student Profile Report be complete and accurate. Please know that this form is not only used for practicum student approval, but also for research data to validate Wilson's success. Carefully check to ensure that each area is complete and does not include a student's last name or date of birth. Failure to do this may result in a delay in your training process. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to detail.

Wilson® Practicum Student Release Form

The Wilson Practicum Student Release Form must be completed and signed by the practicum student's parent/guardian and uploaded to Wilson Academy before any observations can occur. This form can be accessed via Wilson Academy.

Practicum Student Final Report: Posttesting

After the completion of 65 full WRS Lessons and when the student is at WRS Substep 4.2 or higher, the teacher should re-administer the WIST and normed reading test (same as pretest). Scores are to be reported on the **Practicum Student Final Report** and submitted to the assigned Wilson® Credentialed Trainer. Again, be sure that all information is accurate, complete, and does not contain a student's last name or date of birth. Failure to submit this information at the conclusion of your practicum work will result in delay of issuance of your WRS Level I Certification. This is a required component of the training. This report form can be accessed via Wilson Academy. The completed report should be uploaded via Wilson Academy for trainer review.

It is important that the information on the Practicum Student Profile and the Practicum Final Reports be complete and accurate. Please know that these forms are not only used for practicum student approval, but also for research data to validate Wilson's success. Carefully check to ensure that each area is complete and does not include a student's last name or date of birth. Failure to do this may result in a delay in your training process. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to detail.

Practicum Student Profile Report: Pretesting/Student Approval Process

Pretest student with the selected normed reading test and the WIST (Word Identification and Spelling Test). You may use normed reading test scores that reflect recent results (within last six months). **Practicum Student Profile Report: Pretesting** along with the **Wilson® Practicum Student Release Form** must be submitted to the assigned Wilson® Credentialed Trainer via Wilson Academy.

It is important that the information on the Practicum Student Profile Report be complete and accurate. Please know that this form is not only used for practicum student approval, but also for research data to validate Wilson's success. Carefully check to ensure that each area is complete and does not include a student's last name or date of birth. Failure to do this may result in a delay in your training process. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to detail.

Practicum Student Profile Report

- You must access the Pretesting Form via Wilson Academy by clicking the My Professional Learning Tile and then click on the Assignments link on the left.

Wilson Practicum Student Release Form

- You must access the Wilson Practicum Student Release Form via Wilson Academy by clicking the My Professional Learning Tile and then click on the Assignments link on the left.

Wilson Reading System® Practicum Student Pre & Posttesting: Standardized Testing Requirements*

Test: **Word Identification and Spelling Test (WIST)**

Scores to Obtain: Fundamental Literacy Ability Index
 Sound-Symbol Knowledge

All subtests must be administered.

In addition to the WIST, results from one of the following standardized tests need to be recorded on the “Practicum Student Profile Report: Pretesting” and “Practicum Student Final Report: Posttesting”:

Test: **Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests III (WRMT™-III)**

Subtests to Administer: Word Identification Word Attack
 Word Comprehension Passage Comprehension
 Oral Reading Fluency

These five subtests will give the Total Reading score.

Test: **Woodcock-Johnson IV (WJ-IV®) Tests of Achievement**

Subtests to Administer: Letter-Word Identification Sentence Reading Fluency
 Passage Comprehension

These three subtests will give the Broad Reading score which should be filled in under Total Reading on the “Student Practicum Profile Report: Pretesting.”

In addition, the Word Attack subtest must be given and recorded as a separate score.

Test: **Woodcock-Johnson III™ Diagnostic Reading Battery (WJ-III DRB)**

Subtests to Administer: Letter-Word Identification Word Attack
 Reading Vocabulary Passage Comprehension

These four subtests will give the Total Reading score.

Test: **Wechsler Individual Achievement Test®, Third Edition (WIAT®-III)**

Subtests to Administer: • Pseudoword Decoding • Reading Comprehension
 • Word Reading • Oral Reading Fluency

These four subtests will give the Composite Reading Score which should be filled in under Total Reading on the “Student Practicum Profile Report: Pretesting.”

The Pseudoword Decoding score should be filled in under Word Attack on the “Student Practicum Profile Report: Pretesting.”

Test: Wechsler Individual Achievement Test[®], Fourth Edition (WIAT[®]-4)

Subtests to Administer: • Pseudoword Decoding • Reading Comprehension
• Word Reading

Two subtests, Word Reading and Reading Comprehension, will give the Composite Reading Score which should be filled in under Total Reading on the “Student Practicum Profile Report: Pretesting.”

The Pseudoword Decoding score should be filled in under Word Attack on the “Student Practicum Profile Report: Pretesting.”

Test: Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement, Third Edition (KTEA[™]-3)

Subtests to Administer: • Letter & Word Recognition • Reading Comprehension
• Nonsense Word Decoding

The Letter & Word Recognition (LWR) and Reading Comprehension (RC) subtests will give the Reading Composite Score which should be filled in under Total Reading on the “Student Practicum Profile Report: Pretesting.”

The Nonsense Word Decoding (NWD) score should be filled in under Word Attack on the “Student Practicum Profile Report: Pretesting.”

**Regarding the testing of students, teachers and test administrators must follow the requirements established by the applicable school, district, state, and federal agencies.*

Wilson Reading System® (WRS) Steps 1-6 Practicum Student Selection Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I choose a student who has had Foundations®?

A student who has had Foundations may be approved depending on where the student stopped in the Foundations program, and/or how they responded to the Foundations instruction. The student must meet all of the other practicum student selection criteria. The student would need to begin the Wilson Reading System (WRS) at Substep 1.3, so some of the concepts and skills may be repetitious. A student who has had Foundations may move quickly through the first few substeps of WRS.

Why can't I choose a second-grader?

Although a second-grader may benefit from WRS instruction, generally students this age progress more slowly through the program than a student in fourth grade or higher. The goal of the practicum is for your student to reach Substep 4.2 in 65 sessions. A second-grader may not be able to reach Substep 4.2 within the time allotted for WRS Level I Certification training.

Can I choose a student who had the Wilson Reading System in a group, but the teacher was not WRS Level I Certified?

A student who has had previous WRS instruction in a group may be approved as a practicum student if she/he does not demonstrate mastery beyond WRS Step 2 in the group and meets all other practicum selection criteria. The student would need to start instruction at WRS Substep 1.3.

Can I choose a student who had individual WRS instruction, but the teacher was not WRS Level I certified?

A student who has had previous WRS instruction from a non-certified teacher may be approved as the practicum student if she/he does not demonstrate mastery beyond WRS Step 2 and meets all other practicum selection criteria. The student would need to start instruction at WRS Substep 1.3.

Why can't I choose a student who may be below the average range in cognitive skills?

Although a student who is below the average range in cognitive skills may benefit from this kind of instruction, keep in mind that the Wilson Reading System is designed to be used with students who have low-average IQs and higher. We recommend that students selected to be a WRS practicum student have an IQ of 80 or higher. Students who do not fit this description may benefit from WRS, but these students generally progress through the program very slowly. The student may not be able to reach WRS Substep 4.2 within the time allotted for the WRS Level I Certification training.

Can I choose a student whose first language is not English?

A student whose first language is not English may be approved as the practicum student if that student has good oral language skills with English and meets all other practicum student selection criteria. It is important to note that pacing may be slower, thus careful consideration should be given to determine whether the student can reach WRS Substep 4.2 within the course time frame. In the past, these students have needed significantly more than 65 lessons to achieve WRS Substep 4.2.

Can I choose a student who meets the criteria for IQ (80 or higher) and the standardized test (5th-30th percentile), but scores much lower on the WIST?

Yes, the WIST FLAI score should fall between the 5th-30th percentile, while the WIST Sound/Symbol Knowledge Score may be between the 1st and 15th percentile. Keep in mind that the practicum student criteria were developed to provide guidelines to assist you with finding the best practicum student. There may be certain circumstances that warrant special considerations. Please discuss this directly with your assigned trainer.

Can other standardized tests besides the ones listed (WJ-IV®, WIAT®-III, WIAT®-4, WJ-III™ DRB, WRMT™-III, KTEA™-3) be used for pretesting?

Alternative tests may be used, but the tests must have a decoding (word attack) component and a comprehension component. Before using an alternate test, you need to get approval for that test from your assigned Wilson® credentialed Trainer.

I have a potential practicum student who was given a standardized (normed) reading test a year ago. Why can't I use that testing?

Part of the Level I practicum involves documenting the progress the student makes while being instructed in WRS. Because a year has elapsed, those standardized test scores may no longer be valid since the student may have made progress in reading over the past year. Standardized test results must be no more than six months old in order to get a true baseline of the student's current reading skills.

Do I need to give the standardized (normed) reading test and the WIST myself?

You do not need to give the standardized reading test yourself if someone else has administered the test within the past six months or if your school has a staff member to conduct all testing. However, you do have to administer the WIST yourself since becoming skilled in the administration and interpretation of the WIST is part of the practicum. You will also need to arrange for the standardized reading test to be administered after a minimum of 65 lessons and reaching Substep 4.2 to submit Post-Test Scores on your Practicum Student Final Report. The WIST will also need to be administered after a minimum of 65 lessons and reaching Substep 4.2.

Can I choose a relative?

A relative may be approved as the practicum student as long as that individual meets all of the practicum student selection criteria and is available 2-3 times a week for sessions. However, if your school or school district is paying for this training, you may need to make sure you check with them about the appropriateness of this selection. Also, practicum students need to be available during all scheduled observation appointments with your trainer.

Can I conduct my practicum lessons virtually?

You can explore the online lesson delivery with your assigned trainer. It may be possible to do this with additional guidelines and requirements.

When I have completed the WADE during my first lesson with my student, which pages should I upload to the tracker?

You will upload the completed WADE Summary of Scores and Spelling Response Forms. See the next page of this document for a sample.

