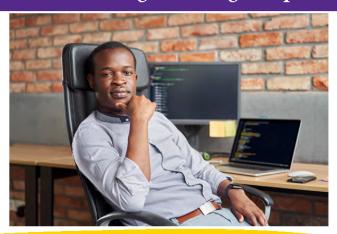# Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology
- Technical Training and Design Emphasis (30 Semester Hours)

The **Master of Science degree in Instructional Design and Technology with a Technical Training and Design Emphasis** at Western Illinois University is designed to prepare instructional designers and trainers to develop training and support in technical fields focused on technology use, planning, implementation, continuous improvement and management.

Coursework for this degree is completed as a combination of face-to-face and online courses.

Admission Requirements

All candidates for the Master of Science (MS) in Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) at Western Illinois University must meet the general admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies, including the successful completion of undergraduate coursework with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 or an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher in the last two years. If undergraduate GPA requirements are not met, the program will consider for admission applicants who have completed at least 12 semester hours (sh) of graduate coursework, with a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.20 or higher from a regionally-accredited university.

Candidates must submit a 1,000-word essay describing their reasons for pursuing a graduate degree in the field of IDT. Candidates must also submit three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to their academic potential. International students, who are not native English speakers, must meet standards set by the Center for International Studies. Applicants for the Technology Specialist emphasis must also meet additional conditions. Please contact the IDT Program for more information regarding this option.

Degree Requirements

Candidates pursuing the MS degree may choose from three exit options: Portfolio Plan, Applied Project Plan, or Thesis Plan. Most candidates take two to three courses per semester, completing the program in approximately one to two years. Candidates have six years to complete the degree.

The curriculum for the Technical Training and Design emphasis is listed below.

Core Requirements (9 sh)
- IDT 500 Intro to the IDT Field (3 sh)
- IDT 505 Foundations of Instructional Technology (3 sh)
- IDT 510 Principles of Instructional Design (3 sh)

Directed Electives (15 sh)
- ET 525 Management of Engineering Technology (3)
- ET 535 Engineering Technology Leadership (3)
- ET 548 Planning Techniques for Leaders (3)
- Select two courses from the following: IDT 433G OR IDT 561, IDT 512, IDT 515, IDT 516, IDT 520, IDT 530, IDT 532, IDT 536, IDT 537, IDT 538, IDT 540 OR IDT 545, IDT 541, IDT 550, IDT 560, IDT 565

Exit Options (6 sh)
- Portfolio Plan: IDT 603 Graduate Portfolio (3 sh) and IDT Elective (3 sh),
- Applied Project Plan: IDT 595 Technology and Research (3) OR ET 590 Research Techniques in Technical Areas (3 sh) and IDT 600 Applied Project (3 sh)
- Thesis Plan: IDT 595 Technology and Research (3) OR ET 590 Research Techniques in Technical Areas (3 sh) and IDT 605 Thesis (3 sh)

Higher Values in Higher Education

Academic Excellence
Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth
Social Responsibility

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Faculty Expertise

Graduate faculty members are committed to helping students apply the principles of instructional design to develop effective instruction and training. Professors in the program have doctorates in their field. Faculty members have extensive experience in their fields and are actively involved in a variety of professional organizations as well as publishing and presenting at the state, national and international levels.

Faculty have expertise in the following areas: online course development and evaluation, multimedia development, digital graphics, digital video editing and production, 3D modeling and animation, web page and database development, computer game development, computer simulations, instructional design and development, project management, performance technology, corporate training, P-12 technology integration in schools and higher education and instructional theory and research.

Assistantship Opportunities

A limited number of graduate assistantships, which provide a monthly stipend and a tuition waiver, are available at the Macomb campus. Undergraduate and graduate GPAs, scholarship records, recommendations and a personal statement fulfill the criteria for awarding assistantships. Applications for assistantships must be made through the WIU School of Graduate Studies.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability and veteran status.

Distinctive Features

The IDT MS degree program offers the flexibility for students to tailor their own program specifically to their career goals. Also, many of the courses, including all core courses, are completely online. Weekend academy elective courses provide hands-on experience for the working professional.

Graduate students often collaborate with faculty in research studies involving online course development, international training and collaboration, virtual worlds, K-12 technology integration, web page and database design and 3D modeling and animation.

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Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Programs

The program offers five post-baccalaureate certificates. All certificate programs are 18 sh. The certificates are as follows:

- Educational Technology Specialist – Prepares current teachers for the Illinois Technology Specialist Endorsement, and meets the educational requirements for this endorsement.
- Online and Distance Learning Development – Prepares educators, instructional designers and trainers to effectively use and develop resources for online and distance learning.
- Instructional Media Development – Prepares educators, instructional designers and trainers to effectively use and develop graphics, web pages, video and 3D animation for education and training deployment.
- Technology Integration in Education – Prepares educators for using technology in the classroom.
- Workplace Learning and Performance – Prepares educators, instructional designers and trainers for designing and managing training and performance improvement projects.

For the Gainful Employment Disclosure, visit wiu.edu/grad/gainfulemployment.

Featured Alumna

I am very passionate about technology and education, and the master's degree in IDT provided me with expertise and tools to use them together more effectively when transferring knowledge and training people. These skills are extremely valuable, especially when dealing with teams that are spread across the world.

– Alejandro Ramirez, software development engineer, Microsoft

Given my prior undergraduate experience in IDT, I knew the quality of instruction at the graduate level would more than exceed my expectations, and provide me with the necessary skills to succeed in the world of instructional technology.

– Donnie Ingram, MS, Senior Instructional Designer, St. Ambrose College