

CAREER Opportunities

Western Illinois University's School of Education

wiu.edu/education

Your potential. Our purpose.

Degree programs at Western offer flexibility and opportunities for diversification and specialization.

Career outlook for graduates is strong

The job outlook for kindergarten and elementary school teachers is expected to see an employment change of nearly 120,000 by 2026 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS] data), with great demand in urban, suburban and rural school districts.

According to the BLS, employment of instructional coordinators is projected to grow by 11% between 2016-2026, faster than the average for all occupations. As states and school districts put greater emphasis on student achievement data, schools may increasingly turn to instructional coordinators to develop better curricula and improve teachers' effectiveness. Special education continues to be a high demand field, with more positions available than qualified personnel. This area is expected to grow 8% by 2026.

MSED: READING

Accredited by the International Literacy Association, Western's Reading graduate program emphasizes a strong foundation in reading and the development of leadership skills. Two areas of emphasis are available.

Completely online:

- K-12 Reading Specialist
As a professional with advanced preparation and experience in reading, you may assume multiple roles in schools and districts in the areas of instruction, assessment and leadership, contributing to the improvement of student learning, especially for those who find literacy learning difficult.
- Reading Teacher (K-5 or 6-12)
With advanced preparation and training in reading, you will work primarily with school age students and may teach reading 50% or more of the time.

Melissa Stinnett, Ph.D.
Reading Graduate Coordinator
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MSED: CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Whether you want to build upon your skills and knowledge as a practicing educator, instructional coach, or plan to pursue a career as an education policy maker or researcher, the Curriculum and Instruction graduate program is for you. Six areas of specialization are available.

Completely online:

- Elementary/Middle School Curriculum
- Early Childhood Education
- Literacy Education

Sebastian Szyjka Ph.D.
Curriculum and Instruction
Graduate Coordinator
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MSED: SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Special Education program prepares you to navigate a broad range of challenges that students with special needs face.

Completely online:

- Learning Behavior Specialist (LBS1):
This program is for individuals with a Professional Educator License seeking a special education endorsement. Three graduate courses are required.
- M.S. Ed. Special Education (37 hours):
 - Track 1 - Teachers who hold one or more certifications in teaching and are seeking special education endorsement with an advanced graduate degree.
 - Track 2 - Teachers who hold one or more certifications/endorsements in special education and are seeking professional advancement with an advanced graduate degree.

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Education Graduate Coordinator
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The mission of the Educational Leadership programs at WIU is to prepare transformational leaders who cultivate exemplary learning.

- Weekend remote format (Saturdays: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sundays: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
- Student centered faculty
- In-state tuition for all students
- Students take two courses per semester

MSED: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP/PRINCIPAL PREPARATION

- Master's Degree: 33 s.h.
- Principal Licensure: 40 s.h.
- Cohort model
- Primarily face-to-face
- Multi-state licensure options
- Year-long internship
- Diversity Partners Scholarship
- Ranger Scholarship

Monica Rouse, Ph.D., Graduate Coordinator • MR-Rouse@wiu.edu

EDS: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP/SUPERINTENDENT PREPARATION

- Educational Specialist Degree and Superintendent Licensure
- Semester Hours: 30
- Face-to-face, video-conferencing, hybrid
- Year-long internship
- Diversity Partners Scholarship

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EDD: EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership
- Semester Hours: 60
- Aligned with superintendent licensure program (24 s.h. can be utilized for both)
- Cohort model
- Face-to-face, video-conferencing, hybrid
- Completion Percentage: 85% (well above the national average)

Stuart Yager, Ph.D., Graduate Coordinator • SO-Yager@wiu.edu

ED STUDIES MSED: LANGUAGE & CULTURE/PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The primary aim of the Western Illinois University Educational Studies graduate program is to assist in the development of highly competent, flexible and empowered practitioners, who will have a positive impact on student learning, their immediate professional setting and the profession as a whole. Graduates of the ES program work as teachers, instructors, educational consultants, policy analysts and academic advisors in schools, colleges and other professional settings. The program is unique in its emphasis on training graduate students to think critically while making evidence-based decisions. Students completing the ES program are prepared to be leaders in, and advocates for, teaching and learning in a diverse society.

Completely online:

The 33-semester hour M.S.Ed. in Educational Studies requires 21 semester hours of core coursework, offered by the program as specified by the student's selected option:

1. Professional Education: Courses in the Professional Education option include: Learning and Instruction; Educational Philosophy; Ethics and Policy; Equity and the Socio-Cultural Contexts of Education; and Educational Assessment and Evaluation.
2. Language, Culture and Education: Courses in the Language, Culture and Education option include: Foundations of Education for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations; Cultural Studies of Second Language Learners; Assessment of Bilingual and ESL Students; Educational Philosophy, Ethics and Policy; and Cognition and Instruction.

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