The Master of Science degree in Instructional Design and Technology is designed to prepare educational technology specialists, graphic designers, educational technologists, trainers in industry and business, and classroom teachers to develop, produce, and evaluate instructional and training materials. Courses are offered in various formats such as online and weekend courses with hands-on experience. Coursework for this degree can be completed online or as a combination of online and face-to-face courses. Graduates of the program will enter or continue careers in instructional design, interactive multimedia, computer-based graphics, and distance learning.

Program Location: Macomb, Quad Cities, Online

Admission Requirements

All candidates for the Master of Science (MS) in Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) must meet the general admission requirements of the 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 department 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 the candidates’ 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 department for more information regarding this option.

Degree Requirements

All degree options require 11 sh of core courses. The Coursework option requires an additional 24 sh of directed electives. The Research option requires 18 sh of directed electives and 3 sh of applied project or thesis. The required 11 sh of core courses are IDT 500 Preseminar (2 sh), IDT 505 Foundations of Instructional Technology (3 sh), IDT 510 Principles of Instructional Design (3 sh), and EIS 500 Research Methods (3 sh). The remaining 18 sh (Research option) or 24 sh (Coursework option) are selected from directed electives that allow specialization and customization of the degree plan. The research option requires either the IDT 600 Applied Project (3 sh) course or the IDT 605 Thesis (3 sh) course. The coursework option requires IDT 603 Graduate Portfolio (0 sh) course. Applicants for the Technology Specialist emphasis must also meet additional requirements. Please contact the IDT department for more information.

Career Opportunities

Graduates from the MS in IDT program work in many areas of public education, corporate training, higher education, and health services. Many graduates have broadened their teaching or training practices with the assistance of learning technologies, while others have pursued new career directions in industry or higher education. The demand for trainers and instructional designers in many fields continues to increase.

Faculty Expertise

Graduate faculty members are committed to helping their students apply the principles of instructional design to develop effective instruction and training. Professors in the department 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. The Midwest Journal of Educational Communications and Technology is housed in the IDT department.

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 the classroom, 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 provide the criteria for awarding assistantships. Applications for assistantships must be made through the 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 courses provide hands-on experience for the working professional.

Recently, graduate students have collaborated 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.

**Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Programs**
The department offers several post-baccalaureate certificates. All certificate programs are 15 sh except for the Educational Technology Specialist, which is mandated to be 24 sh. The certificates are as follows:

- **Educational Technology Specialist** – Prepares current teachers for the Illinois Technology Specialist Certification and meets the educational requirements for this certificate.
- **Online and Distance Learning Development** – Prepares educators, instructional designers, and trainers to effectively use and develop resources for online and distance learning.
- **Graphic Applications** – Prepares educators, instructional designers, and trainers to design digital media, simulations, and 3D animation for instruction.
- **Multimedia** – Prepares educators, instructional designers, and trainers to design video, graphics, and interactive multimedia for instruction.
- **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 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

WIU launched its Instructional Technology MS program in 1996, and I was a member of the first class. Faculty and administrators recognized and nurtured my talents. They arranged for the resources I needed to initiate a research program involving the application of cognitive science analogical reasoning within instructional design. I did the hard work. I continue to refine this research program as the senior educational researcher at the NASA-sponsored Classroom of the Future. My studies at WIU prepared me with the knowledge and skills that are my professional foundation. Since graduation, I have collaborated with WIU faculty to conduct research or service to the field.

– Debbie Reese, Senior Educational Researcher, Wheeling Jesuit University

**Contact Information**
For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact Dr. Leaunda Hemphill, Graduate Advisor, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1186, LS-Hemphill@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/coehs/idt.