

Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology – Technology Specialist Emphasis (30 semester hours)



The Instructional Design and Technology graduate program at Western Illinois University offers a Master of Science in Instruction and Technology degree with a Technology Specialist emphasis. Coursework for the degree can be completed online. Field experiences can be arranged through the graduate students' institutions.

Admission Requirements

All candidates for the Master of Science (MS) in Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) at Western Illinois University, with a Technology Specialist emphasis, must meet the following requirements:

- Admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies, including the successful completion of undergraduate coursework, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75 (or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the final two years of undergraduate coursework). If undergraduate GPA requirements are not met, the department will consider admission for applicants who have completed at least 12 semester hours (SH) of graduate coursework, with a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.2 or higher, from a regionally-accredited university.
- Admission requirements of the IDT program include:
 - Submission of a 1000-word essay describing the reasons for pursuing a graduate degree in the field of IDT
 - Submission of three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the candidate's academic potential
- If seeking State of Illinois endorsement, a valid Illinois teaching license is required.
- If not seeking State of Illinois endorsement, through the IDT program, a signed statement attesting to that is required.

Degree Requirements

Candidates pursuing the MS degree with a Technology Specialist emphasis, may choose from three exit options: Portfolio Plan, Applied Project Plan, or Thesis Plan. Field experiences are arranged by the student in K-12 settings, and must be approved by faculty members. 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 program.

Career Opportunities

The MS program opens up new or expanded career opportunities to educators by preparing graduates to provide leadership in the use of technology in K-12 classrooms and schools. Graduates may also become technology specialists working with educators at a building level. Graduates will be able to effectively facilitate the integration of technology in their own classrooms for teaching and learning. In addition, licensed teachers can apply for an Illinois Technology Specialist endorsement.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Use instructional methods and strategies to support content learning through effective use of technology
- Teach technology concepts and skills related to learning technologies and technological literacy to students, educators and administrators
- Provide curriculum support and integration of technology across subject and content areas for enhanced instruction and learning

Program Location:
Online

Contact Information

Questions about the program:
Instructional Design and Technology Program
Professor Hoyet Hemphill,
program director/graduate advisor
(309) 298-1091
HH-Hemphill@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/idt

-or-
Professor Leanda Hemphill,
IDT tech specialist coordinator
(309) 298-1091
LS-Hemphill@wiu.edu

General admission questions:
School of Graduate Studies
(309) 298-1806 or (877) WIU GRAD
Grad-Office@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/grad

*Higher Values in
Higher Education*

Academic Excellence
Educational Opportunity
Personal Growth
Social Responsibility



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- Provide technology support, mentoring, and professional development opportunities to educators
- Produce standards-based and technology-integrated instruction for classroom, online, blended, and computer-based environments.
- Apply instructional design principles to assess and create instructional material using interactive multimedia, web-based and other emerging technologies
- Assist in assessing, acquiring, and maintaining hardware, software and network products

Program Curriculum

Candidates pursuing the 30-semester hour MS degree, with a Technology Specialist emphasis, may choose from three exit options: Portfolio Plan, Applied Project Plan or Thesis Plan. The curriculum 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)

- IDT 517 - Technology Tools and Strategies for Digital Learning Environments (3 SH)
- IDT 529 - Integration of Learning Technologies for Education and Training (3 SH)
- IDT 534 - Technology Issues and Professional Development in Education and Training (3 SH)
- IDT 539 - Leading Learning Technology Use in Digital Age Environments (3 SH)
- IDT 595 - Technology Planning and Research (3 SH)

Exit Options (6 SH)

- Applied Project Plan: IDT 600 Applied Project (3 SH), Electives (3 SH),
- Portfolio Plan: IDT 603 Graduate Portfolio (3 SH), Electives (3 SH),
OR
- Thesis Plan: IDT 605 Thesis (3 SH), Electives (3 SH)

During each of the courses, candidates will add to their Technology Specialist Portfolio, which documents their knowledge, skills and dispositions in relation to the Technology Specialist standards. The Technology Specialist Portfolio must be completed by the end of the program.

Professional Development in Technology Integration



Illinois Technology Specialist Endorsement

If they have a valid Illinois teaching license, graduates can apply for an Illinois endorsement for Technology Specialist and pass the Technology Specialist Test (223) to obtain the official endorsement through the Illinois State Board of Education.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program

Instead of completing the MS degree, certified teachers can complete a 18-SH course of study through the Educational Technology Specialist Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC). The certificate requires six courses: IDT 510, IDT 517, IDT 529, IDT 534, IDT 539, and IDT 595. Students have three years to complete the PBC. After completion of the PBC, candidates can apply for an Illinois Technology Specialist endorsement if they have a valid Illinois teaching license and pass the required state test.

For the Gainful Employment Disclosure, visit wiu.edu/gradgainfulemployment.

Accreditation

Western Illinois University is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology with a Technology Specialist emphasis and the Technology Specialist PBC programs are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for coursework leading the Technology Specialist endorsement.

“The graduate program in Instructional Design and Technology was flexible enough that I could take classes while working full time. With the wide variety of classes available, I was able to tailor my classes to best suit my career in public education.”

— Craig Reid, MS
Director for Technology
Moline-Coal Valley School District