

Western Illinois University

School of Education

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Dr. Melissa Stinnett
Reading Graduate Coordinator
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309-298-2033

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 & Instruction Graduate Program is for you. Six areas of specialization are available:

Completely Online:

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

Face-to-Face and Online Courses:

- Social Studies Education

Dr. Sebastian Szyjka
Curriculum and Instruction
Graduate Coordinator
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309-255-2221

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.

Dr. Christine Anderson
Special Education Graduate Coordinator
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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% from 2016 to 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.



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