



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT

SPRING 2026

FRIDAY, MAY 15 AND SATURDAY, MAY 16
WESTERN HALL, MACOMB, IL

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A GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Class of 2026:

Congratulations on completing your degree from Western Illinois University! I commend each of you for your achievements and the dedication it took to reach this milestone.

Today is a day of celebration! As you close this exciting and meaningful chapter, we reflect on your time at Western and celebrate your accomplishments and your choice to become a member of the Leatherneck family.

Western Illinois University continues to be recognized for expanding opportunity and supporting upward mobility, reflecting our commitment to student achievement and access. Across our campuses, students are transformed as they persevere, discover their purpose, and apply what they have learned to create opportunities both for themselves and others.

This moment marks an important transition from accomplished student to proud Leatherneck alumnus. You join a community of graduates who carry forward the values of resilience and service.

The future is bright because of you. On behalf of everyone at WIU, we are all excited for what you will achieve, the lives you will impact, and the positive change you will create in the world.

Congratulations, Western Illinois University Class of 2026!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi Mindrup". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Kristi Mindrup, Ph.D.
President

STATE OF ILLINOIS
J.B. PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Polly Radosh
Chair
Good Hope



Carin Stutz
Vice Chair
Chicago



Erika Lowe Mullins
Secretary
Chicago



James Bierman
Newton



Kirk Dillard
Hinsdale



Kisha M.J. Lang
Maywood

OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Kristi Mindrup President
Dr. Mark Mossman Provost and Academic Affairs Vice President
Dr. Justin Schuch..... Vice President for Student Success
Ms. Ketra RoseliebVice President for Finance and Administration
Ms. Amy Crosby..... Interim Executive Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations
Interim Executive Officer of the Foundation

ACADEMIC DEANS

Dr. Kyle R. Mayborn, Interim College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Tara Feld, Interim..... College of Business and Technology
Dr. Eric C. Sheffield, Interim College of Education and Human Services
Dr. Richard M. Kurasz, Interim College of Fine Arts and Communication
Dr. Christopher D. Merrett Innovation and Economic Development
Dr. Héctor Maymí-Sugrañes..... University Libraries

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

Friday, May 15, 2026 • 5:00 p.m.

Prelude.....	WIU Wind Ensemble Michael Fansler, Conductor
Processional.....	Wind Ensemble “Fanfare and Processional, from March No. 1 in D Major, Op. 39, No. 1,” by Sir Edward Elgar, arranged by James D. Ployhar
National Anthem.....	Kacey Marovich “The Star Spangled Banner,” by Francis Scott Key Bachelor of Fine Arts, Class of 2026
Master of Ceremonies.....	Mark Mossman Provost and Academic Affairs Vice President
Greetings from the Board of Trustees.....	Polly Radosh Board of Trustees Chair
Distinguished University Professor.....	Provost Mossman Recipient: Dr. Sherry Lindquist, Art and Design
Remarks to the Graduating Class.....	Kristi Mindrup The Power of the Prompt President
Presentation of Candidates, Doctoral Degrees.....	Kishor Kapale Assistant Vice President for Graduate, Online and Outreach Programs
Conferring of Doctoral Degrees.....	President Mindrup
Hooding of Doctoral Candidates.....	Provost Mossman Doctor of Education, College of Education and Human Services
Presentation of Candidates, Graduate Degrees.....	Assistant Vice President Kapale
Conferring of Graduate Degrees.....	President Mindrup
Hooding of Graduates, College of Fine Arts and Communication.....	Richard Kurasz Master of Fine Arts Interim Dean
Hooding of Graduates, College of Arts and Sciences.....	Kyle Mayborn Interim Dean
Hooding of Graduates, College of Business and Technology.....	Tara Feld School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration Interim Dean
Hooding of Graduates, College of Education and Human Services.....	Eric Sheffield Interim Dean
Hooding of Graduates, College of Fine Arts and Communication.....	Richard Kurasz Interim Dean

Hooding of Graduates, Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs.....Christopher Merrett
Dean

Welcome to Alumni Association.....Molly Holmes
President, Alumni Council

Closing Remarks.....Provost Mossman

Recessional..... Wind Ensemble
“Fanfare and Recessional,” by James Ployhar

PROCESSIONAL INTRODUCTIONS

Jeffrey Hancks, Chairperson
Department of Counselor Education, College Student Personnel, and Social Work
College of Education and Human Services

ACADEMIC READERS

Doctoral

Kishor Kapale
Assistant Vice President for Graduate, Online and Outreach Programs

Graduate

Jeffrey Hancks, Chairperson
Department of Counselor Education, College Student Personnel, and Social Work
College of Education and Human Services

MARSHALS

Jaylhien Colbert	Bradley Jenkins
Jocelyn Fowler	Robert Younker
Megan Hynek	

PROCESSIONAL INTRODUCTIONS

Jeffrey Hancks, Chairperson
Department of Counselor Education, College Student Personnel, and Social Work
College of Education and Human Services

ACADEMIC READERS

Undergraduate

Joel Gruver, Professor of Agriculture
College of Business and Technology

Jeffrey Hancks, Chairperson
Department of Counselor Education, College Student Personnel, and Social Work
College of Education and Human Services

MARSHALS

Annaliese M. Goc	Grace E. Wisniewski
Caleb J. Belmont	Joshua E. Goff
Dena R. Williams-Newby	Makenna N. John
Drew J. Hallock	Samantha Claesson

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
UNDERGRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
Saturday, May 16, 2026 • 1:30 p.m.

Prelude.....	WIU Wind Ensemble Michael Fansler, Conductor
Processional.....	Wind Ensemble "Fanfare and Processional, from March No. 1 in D Major, Op. 39, No. 1," by Sir Edward Elgar, arranged by James D. Ployhar
National Anthem.....	Eva K. Albright "The Star Spangled Banner," by Francis Scott Key Bachelor of Fine Arts, Class of 2026
Master of Ceremonies.....	Mark Mossman Provost and Academic Affairs Vice President
Greetings from the Board of Trustees.....	Polly Radosh Board of Trustees Chair
Distinguished University Professor.....	Provost Mossman Recipient: Dr. Sherry Lindquist, Art and Design
Remarks to the Graduating Class.....	Kristi Mindrup The Power of the Prompt President
Distinguished Alumni Award.....	Molly Holmes, Class of 2001, 2004 Recipient: Shelly M. Russell, Class of 1997 President, Alumni Council
Presentation of Candidates.....	Kyle Mayborn College of Arts and Sciences Interim Dean
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees.....	President Mindrup College of Arts and Sciences
Presentation of Candidates.....	Eric Sheffield College of Education and Human Services Interim Dean
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees.....	President Mindrup College of Education and Human Services
Presentation of Candidates.....	Richard Kurasz College of Fine Arts and Communication Interim Dean
Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees.....	President Mindrup College of Fine Arts and Communication
Welcome to Alumni Association.....	Holmes
Closing Remarks.....	Provost Mossman
Recessional.....	Wind Ensemble "Fanfare and Recessional," by James D. Ployhar

PROCESSIONAL INTRODUCTIONS

Jeffrey Hancks, Chairperson
Department of Counselor Education, College Student Personnel, and Social Work
College of Education and Human Services

ACADEMIC READERS

Undergraduate

Elizabeth Hansen
Associate Professor of Mathematics and Philosophy
College of Art and Sciences

Debra Allwardt
Associate Professor of Counselor Education,
College Student Personnel, and Social Work
College of Education and Human Services

Nicholas Miguel
Assistant Professor of Music
College of Fine Arts and Communication

MARSHALS

Douglas A. Davis
Eva K. Albright
Grace R. Branch
Jadyn Collis

Julietta Nora Marini
Olivia Jung
Rayhana E. Daoudi
Sydnee Grace Osgood

COLLEGE SCHOLARS

Each of Western Illinois University's four academic colleges, the Centennial Honors College, and the University Libraries selects a graduating senior as the college's outstanding student. College Scholars receive a gold medallion on a purple and gold ribbon in recognition of their high achievement.



Tracy Collins
(Carthage, IL) Graduates with a B.S. in Psychology with academic distinction, Cum Laude. Tracy is also the Psychology Department Scholar.

**Arts and Sciences
Scholar**



Samantha Claesson
(Skene, Sweden) Graduates with a B.S. in Engineering Technology with highest academic distinction, Summa Cum Laude. Samantha is also the Engineering Technology Department Scholar.

**Business and
Technology Scholar**



Makenna Hughes
(Roscoe, IL) Graduates with a B.S. in Exercise Science with highest academic distinction, Summa Cum Laude.

**Education and Human
Services Scholar**



Francesca Gabrielle
Abrea Magalang
(Joliet, IL) Graduates with a B.F.A. in Art - Teacher Education with academic distinction Cum Laude. Francesca is also the Art and Design Department Scholar.

**Fine Arts and
Communication
Scholar**



Dena R. Williams-
Newby
(Rock Island, IL) Graduates with a B.A. in General Studies with academic distinction, Cum Laude.

**University Libraries
Scholar**

HONORS SCHOLARS

An Honors Scholar is a student who has completed Honors coursework in their major. These candidates wear a gold medallion on a light blue ribbon.

DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARS

Departmental Scholars are the outstanding undergraduate degree candidates in an academic major as determined by the faculty in the major department. These candidates wear a gold medallion on a sapphire blue ribbon.

ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

Candidates for the baccalaureate degree, who have earned a minimum 60 semester hours of graded courses at Western, are eligible for graduation with academic distinction. Coursework completed at WIU, and all transferable hours, are calculated to determine honors. The academic distinction of Cum Laude is awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.60-3.74 on a 4.00 scale. These candidates wear a silver medallion on a gold ribbon. The academic distinction of Magna Cum Laude is awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.75-3.89. These candidates wear a silver medallion on a purple ribbon. The academic distinction of Summa Cum Laude is awarded to students with a grade point average of 3.90 or higher. These candidates wear a silver medallion on a red ribbon.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS



David L. Harlow
Class of 1982

Harlow, a 1982 Law Enforcement & Justice Administration graduate, is retired from the United States Marshals Service (USMS), the nation's oldest and most versatile federal law enforcement agency, where he served for nearly 35 years. Harlow started his career as a Deputy U.S. Marshal in the Northern District of Ohio in 1983. He transferred to the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria, VA, in 2007, where he served as Chief Deputy U.S. Marshal.

In 2008, Harlow was reassigned to the USMS headquarters to establish the Sex Offender Investigations Branch, where he led the development and execution of the USMS Sex Offender Apprehension Program. Additionally, he led the interagency National Sex Offender Targeting Center and developed the USMS Behavioral Analysis Unit to assist with prioritizing and targeting non-compliant and fugitive sex offenders. He was reassigned as the Deputy Assistant Director for Investigations in 2011 and promoted to the Senior Executive Service and selected as Assistant Director for Investigations in 2012. Shortly after, he was promoted to Associate Director for Operations, where he managed Investigative Operations, Judicial Security, Witness Security, Tactical Operations, Prisoner Operations and the Justice Prisoner and Alliance Transportation System.

In 2014, Harlow was promoted to Deputy Director and in 2015 was named Acting Director, holding that position until he retired in 2018. As Acting Director, Harlow oversaw 3,800 Deputy U.S. Marshals and 1,500 administrative staff in all efforts related to federal judicial security, fugitive apprehension, witness security, asset forfeiture and prisoner operations. Throughout his career, Harlow worked under President Barack Obama and President Donald J. Trump.

Harlow was a founding member of the U.S. Marshals Survivors Benefit Foundation, which he currently supports as secretary of the Board of Directors. He is the vice chair of the U.S. Marshals Museum Foundation and is a member of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association. Harlow is a past member of the WIU College of Education and Human Services' Dean's Council and currently serves as co-chair of the WIU School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration Advisory Board. He has received numerous professional awards throughout his career, including the Attorney General's Award, Director Awards and several special act and performance awards. He was selected for the WIU Alumni Achievement Award in 2017. Harlow now lives in Loda, IL.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS (CONTINUED)



Shelly M. Russell
Class of 1997

Russell, a 1997 graduate of the Board of Governors Degree degree program (now Bachelor of General Studies), has served as Chief Executive Officer for Mitchell County Regional Health Center in Osage, IA, since 2014.

Russell earned her associates degree from Carl Sandburg College and began her career at McDonough District Hospital in 1982. She progressed through clinical and leadership roles at MDH, including certified nursing assistant, licensed practical nurse, staff nurse, house supervisor and medical management coordinator. While working full time, Russell returned to school and completed her Board of Governors degree.

In 2001, Russell relocated to Medford, WI, to serve as Director of Quality Services and Patient Safety Officer at Memorial Health Center, leading organization-wide efforts in quality improvement, patient safety and regulatory readiness. In 2006, Russell joined Aspirus, Inc. in Wausau, WI, as Operations Improvement Administrator, where she supported multiple hospitals and departments across the health system. She was promoted to Director of Care Coordinator and Population Health Management in 2010. While at Aspirus, Russell was instrumental in implementing Lean principles across the system, helping teams improve quality, outcomes and financial sustainability.

Russell joined Mitchell County Regional Health Center in 2013 as Chief Nursing Officer, where she provided leadership for nursing services as well as pharmacy,

physical therapy, case management, infection control, cardiac rehabilitation, anesthesia, and operating room services. She was named Chief Executive Officer in 2014. As CEO, she has led major expansion projects that increased access to clinic services, orthopedics and surgical care, ensuring rural patients can receive high-quality care.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Russell guided the organization through unprecedented challenges with steadiness and compassion, including serving as an early adopter of PCR testing through a partnership with Yale University. Her leadership has been recognized nationally with multiple selections as a Becker's Hospital Review Critical Access Hospital "CEO to Know," most recently in 2025. Under her direction, Mitchell County Regional Health Center has also been named a Chartis Center for Rural Health Top 100 Critical Access Hospital five times. Mitchell County Regional Health Center has also earned multiple Performance Leadership Awards in 2023, 2024, and 2025, recognizing excellence in quality of care and patient experience.

Russell serves as chair of the Iowa Hospital Association and is active with the American Hospital Association and the Substance Abuse Council. She is a member of the Osage Rotary Club, a Compassion International Child Advocate and has previously served on the Mitchell County Economic Development Board of Directors and Osage Development Council.

DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR

DR. SHERRY C. M. LINDQUIST



Sherry C.M. Lindquist joined the WIU faculty as an assistant professor in 2012 and was promoted to professor in 2021. She has published extensively on medieval monsters, the meanings of nudity in medieval art, the history of the book, gender, late medieval Burgundy, and neo-medievalism—including her most recent book, *The Book of Hours and the Body: Somaesthetics, Posthumanism, and the Uncanny* (Routledge, 2024). Professor Lindquist was co-curator/co-author of *Medieval Monsters: Terrors, Aliens, Wonders* with Asa Mittman (Morgan Library, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and the Blanton Museum, 2018-2019). She has also curated *Medieval Monsters* (Figge Art Museum, 2013) and *Monster Marks* (Art Museum of the University of Memphis, 2018). Her scholarly coloring book is entitled, *M is for Monster*.

Professor Lindquist's work has been recognized by grants from the Fulbright, Getty, Kress, and Mellon foundations, the Newberry Library, Yale Center for British Art, and the British Academy. She held the Dorothy Kayser Hohenberg Chair of Excellence in Art History at the University of Memphis (2017-19). She has repeatedly served on the Board of the International Center of Medieval Art as well as the editorial board of "Visualising the Middle Ages" (Brill). She delivered dozens of invited and endowed lectures, including the Annual Lecture of the Department of Religion at Boston University (2025) and the keynote for the Feminist Art History Conference at the American University, Washington DC (2023). Dr. Lindquist is currently writing *The Creatures of Hieronymus Bosch* (forthcoming with Abbeyville Press, 2027).

The 2026 Distinguished Faculty Lecture is titled - "Art, Horror, Humor, and Empathy: the Creatures of Hieronymus Bosch."

Synopsis of the lecture -

** The strange creatures that haunt the paintings of the 16th-century artist Hieronymus Bosch are still with us in the 21st century. In addition to what seems to be an inexhaustible array of museum merchandising, he shows up in The Simpsons, the collections of haute couture designers, K-pop, video games, and the work of thought-provoking contemporary artists.*

** What is his appeal? Bosch's ridiculous hybrids and scenes of torture and degradation have not lost their potency: they can still amuse, disorient, and horrify us. In the aggregate, how funny and/or scary, and/or shocking were (are?) Bosch's creatures? What do they tell us about the human love for the contradictory genre of parodic horror—still popular today—which makes us laugh and also gives us nightmares?*

** Less appealing is that some of his creatures dehumanize Jews, women, Muslims, indigenous peoples, persons not conforming to sexual norms, and people struggling with poverty, mental illness, and physical limitations. How do we contend responsibly with the legacies of prejudice and hatred that are embedded in so much of our shared cultural heritage? This lecture considers these difficult questions through the lens of select creatures from the superb but disturbing imagination of Hieronymus Bosch.*

THE WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CEREMONIAL MACE

The ceremonial mace, a symbol of university scholarship and integrity since the 11th century, is used to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonial occasions, signifying the importance of the event and the confirmation of the academic process.

The University's mace was designed by WIU Department of Art and Design Chair Kat Myers, and crafted by Myers in collaboration with the late Kenneth B. Epperson, Western alumnus and former WIU Admissions' community college director.

The turned walnut shaft is encircled by three engraved sterling silver bands with four pierced sterling silver fins cradling a freely moving gold sphere.



The fins represent Western Illinois University's four core values—Academic Excellence, Educational Opportunity, Personal Growth, and Social Responsibility—positioned as the four directions of the compass. The sphere, representing the student, is held and guided by the fins as it moves to find its place in the world.

The incorporated sphere was formed by raising, a 3,000-year-old metalsmithing process using steel hammers and forms to shape sheet metal. The sphere is made of 24K gold-plated brass. While the process was chosen as a representation of Western's respect for tradition, the sphere remains mobile, illustrating the University's readiness to adapt as it looks toward an ever-changing future.

ABOUT THE FLAGS

Displayed in the arena are the flags of 36 nations representing students in today's graduating class at Western Illinois University. The flags represent the following countries: Afghanistan, Antigua, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brazil, Canada, China, Dominica, France, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Iran, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, the United States and Zimbabwe. Western Illinois University was home to students from 58 countries during the Spring 2026 semester.

ABOUT THE GONFALONS

Gonfalons made their inaugural appearance in Western's Fall 2009 Commencement ceremonies. The gonfalons are banners hung from a crossbar on poles, which represent the specific group immediately following the gonfalonier, the person carrying the banner.

Their origins date back to medieval Italy, when gonfalons were used to distinguish Italian republics. They have also been used in ecclesiastical processions, as well as in war, and they have evolved into bearing coats of arms for individuals and groups.

Many universities and colleges have adopted the use of gonfalons to enhance the ceremonial nature of commencement exercises.

Today's processions include gonfalons for Western Illinois University, the School of Graduate Studies, the Centennial Honors College, University Libraries and each of the four academic colleges: Arts and Sciences; Business and Technology; Education and Human Services; and Fine Arts and Communication.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The colorful regalia worn by academicians is steeped in tradition, dating back to the ecclesiastical garb of the Middle Ages. Adaptations from ecclesiastical to academic dress began in early European universities, which were founded by the church. University faculty and students wore the adapted robes for distinction and warmth. The University of Cambridge is cited as the first to use the academic gown.

Representatives of American universities met in the early 1890s and agreed upon a standard style of academic attire. The Intercollegiate Code, revised in 1932, and again in 1959, is followed today by American colleges and universities, except for a few schools, which continue to use the styles of England.

Gowns are traditionally black. However, some universities have authorized use of a color symbolic of the institution. Bachelor's gowns have pointed sleeves and are designed to be worn closed. Master's and Specialist gowns have long, closed sleeves with an arc near the bottom and an opening for the arm. Doctoral gowns are faced with wide velvet panels and have bell-shaped sleeves with three horizontal velvet bars.

Caps, originally round, are typically square mortarboards. Some universities have adopted a doctor's cap with a soft crown instead of the mortarboard.

ACADEMIC REGALIA (CONTINUED)

At Western, the tassel color of bachelor degree candidates indicates the college or program from which students graduate: College of Arts and Sciences, white for bachelor of arts, gold for bachelor of science, white and gold for bachelor of liberal arts and sciences, and apricot for bachelor of science in nursing; College of Business and Technology, sapphire blue; College of Education and Human Services, light blue for bachelor of science and bachelor of science in education, and citron for bachelor of social work; College of Fine Arts and Communication, brown for bachelor of arts, bachelor of fine arts, and bachelor of science, and pink for bachelor of music; General Studies Degree Program, white for bachelor of arts. Master's tassels are black. Doctoral tassels are old gold.

Hoods, which originally were attached to the gown and could be slipped over the head for warmth, are the most colorful articles of specialist, master's, and doctor's clothing. The color of the lining of the hood represents the university awarding the degree. The color of the facing of the hood reflects the academic discipline of the wearer's highest degree. At Western, the colors awarded for doctoral and graduate degrees are: light blue, education doctorate, education specialist, master of arts in teaching, and master of science in education; gold, specialist in school psychology and master of science; sapphire blue, master of accountancy and master of business administration; white, master of arts; white and gold, master of liberal arts and sciences; pink, master of music and master of public health; and brown, master of fine arts.

Colors which may be seen among the marching faculty and their corresponding fields of study include: brown (fine arts), crimson (journalism), dark blue (philosophy), golden yellow (science), lemon yellow (library science), light blue (education), yellow brown (commerce, business, accountancy), pink (music), purple (law), sage green (physical education), scarlet (theology), gold and white (liberal arts and sciences), and white (arts, letters, humanities).

INFORMATION FOR DEGREE CANDIDATES

Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to participate in Commencement if they anticipate completion of requirements for graduation during the spring or summer semester.

The roster of candidates listed in this program is a compilation of those eligible to participate and who have not submitted the Exclusion of Directory Information Form. It should not be construed either as a complete or official list of those who will receive a University degree. Due to publishing deadlines, names of some degree recipients may not appear, while names of degree candidates may appear even though they have not completed their degree requirements.

Undergraduate honors distinctions are based on the candidate's academic record at the time of publication.

Diplomas will be mailed approximately eight weeks after Commencement to those who have completed requirements and have no University encumbrances.

The University has arranged for a professional photographer to take individual photographs as students cross the stage. A postcard with the link to the commencement photo galleries will be mailed to the student's home address within 7-14 days of the ceremony. Photographs may be ordered from the website.

The University's official registry for conferral of degrees is the Office of the Registrar.

GUEST INFORMATION

Western Illinois University is proud to recognize the accomplishments of our graduates and hopes each ceremony is a meaningful event for graduates, families, friends, faculty, and staff.

Please silence all electronic devices. For safety and decorum, aisles must remain clear during the ceremony. Guests are expected to remain seated until the stage party, faculty, and graduates have recessed.

Disability parking and seating are available at Western Hall. Assistive listening devices are available at the sound table south of the stage in Western Hall. Sign language interpretation is also provided. Mobility devices provided by Western Illinois University are not permitted outside Western Hall.

A public first aid station is located in the east-west hallway behind the lower seating level on the south side of Western Hall.

Please note all emergency exit locations. Emergency exits in Western Hall are located behind the stage at the west end of the gym, through the East Arena, and through the main entry at the north lobby doors.

Western Illinois University is a smoke-free, tobacco-free and marijuana-free campus.

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Dr. James LaPrad, Director

Terri-Anne Bynoe

“Belonging among Immigrant Students of Color at a Predominantly White Suburban High School in Massachusetts: A Phenomenological Study”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Rashmi Sharma

Darin Thomas Dunphy

“The Price of Inclusion: Institutional Compliance, Physical Disability, and Conditional Belonging in Higher Education”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Tracy Davis

Christopher Darren Janssen

“The Effect of the Evidence Based Funding Model on Illinois School Districts Furthest from Funding Adequacy”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Bridget Sheng

Daniel Kerney

“Modified Multidimensional Bechdel Test”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Julie Brines

Antonia B. Laurent-Goodman

“Reimagining the Compulsory Mathematics Curriculum: A Social Justice Approach to Enhancing Relevance and Engagement for College Students in the Caribbean”

Dissertation Chair: Dr. Rashmi Sharma

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATION

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

THEATRE

Ms. Lysa Fox, *Interim Chair*

Sara Elizabeth Ann BenBella

Frank Candelaria V

Christopher Elst

Travis Alan Griffin

Braeden K. Johnson

Erik Kelly Larsen

Bryan Curtis Larson

Edward D. Lindem

Michael McNamara

Kristen Nicole Peck

Amie Frances Root

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

MASTER OF ARTS

ENGLISH

Dr. Daniel Barclay,

Interim Chair

Ilana Garnica

Sarah Mae Murphy

Puspita Roy

Dianna Elizabeth Ruiz

Margaret E. Talbott

Blake Traylor

Brittney Witt

Grace Wright

HISTORY

Dr. Timothy Roberts, *Chair*

Christian Fumey

Paolo Gabriel Romero

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Gregory Baldi, *Chair*

A S M Zaki Faisal

Md Asif Khan

Yinka Ogunlana

Tarannum Rashid

Zsayla Simlin

SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Tawnya Adkins Covert, *Chair*

Sumaiya Akter

Shobnom Ani

Mariah Armstrong

Darcy Kay Baker Eberle

Ananya Sharma Proma

MASTER OF SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

Dr. Richard Musser,

Interim Chair

Farhan Jamil Emon

Alyssa Rae Hall

Sorin Hilsabeck

Sowmya Sree Kadali

Sam Manuel McCammant

Gunter Nusbaumer

GISCIENCE AND

GEOENVIRONMENT

Dr. Samuel Thompson, *Chair*

Oladayo Babalola

Kishan Hiteshbhai Dholakiya

Christopher Hogan

Md Kaium Hossain

Jefferson Ikediuba

Derrick Oppong Kumi

Eric Kwarteng

George Kyereboah

Jumoke Ifeoluwa Ogunremi

Gbeminiyi Ezekiel Ogunwale

John Eakin Oppong-Twum

Prince Asare Owusu

Md Touhidun Nur Shimul

Azeezah Oyindamola Tayo

Jennifer Whetzel

MATHEMATICS

Dr. Victoria Baramidze, *Chair*

Foyсал Ahmed

Yassine Aouina

Kiara Hunte

Christopher Jorgensen

Nicholas Rohl

PHYSICS

Dr. Pengqian Wang,

Interim Chair

Jonathan Ekow Apprey

Nishesh K. C.

Mst Azmary Khatun

Kashmir Lamichhane

Philip Ambe Omiah

Gabriel Sojka

Angelica Strack

CHEMISTRY

Dr. Liguо Song, *Chair*

Md Mahmud Alam

Alayna Michelle Brown

Richard Orlando Brown

Emma Paige Joens

Mackenzie Dianne White

Sheela Shaktisinh Zala

MASTER OF SCIENCE (CONTINUED)

PSYCHOLOGY
*Dr. Matthew Blankenship,
Interim Chair*

Eunice Opoku Asanoh
Bhavika
Jayla Carle
Lingyun (Cloud) Chang
James Churchill

Elizabeth Kay Foster
Karlee Herman
Sophia Rae Cassidy Keller
Owen Kibbe
Isaiah Jasper Moorman
Madison Kassay Nestor
Daniela Quiroga
Juan Manuel Ramirez
Kayla Rollings

Kaitlyn LeAnn Weishaar
Deoquase Williams

TEACHING MATHEMATICS
Dr. Victoria Baramidze, Chair
Kenneth Broge

SPECIALIST IN SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY
*Dr. Matthew Blankenship,
Interim Chair*

Kinsley Barnard
Madelyn P. Belville
Addison Sommers Fletcher
Dorcas K. Mensah

Brittany Poppenhager
Elida Reyna Zárate

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY

ACCOUNTANCY
*Dr. Stephen Gray,
Interim Director*

Logan Kavanagh
Lara E. Robinson
Natalia Noemi Rosales
Kayla Brynn Turner

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Hattie I. Mourning *
Kaylen S. Reed

Magna Cum Laude
Elizabeth Ziegler

Cum Laude
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Cum Laude

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Anna M. Kozak

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Kylie A. Norris

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Department Scholar

Megan Deann Coleman

ART

Ms. Kathleen Myers, *Chair*

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Francesca Gabrielle Abrea
Magalang

Cum Laude

Francesca Gabrielle Abrea
Magalang

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GENERAL STUDIES

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Samantha Marie Galindo

Tina Rene Moore

Cum Laude

Pamela M. Haney

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Dena R. Williams-Newby

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Bria Armstrong

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Dante Turgeon

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Kimahri Wilson

Rayvon Wright

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Summa Cum Laude

Makenna N. John

Cum Laude

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Cum Laude

Matthew Tyler Argo

Joseph D. Ketchum Jr.

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Cassidy E. Martin

Maria E. Messling *

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Matthew A. Jacques
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Grace Elizabeth Wisniewski

Cum Laude

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Justice J. Walker
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Kelsey M. Watson
Evelynn-Rose Wilder
Anissa Yvonne Wilson
Adelaide Wingard
Belle Wooden

* Honors Scholar

HISTORY OF WESTERN

On April 24, 1899, a bill to establish Western Illinois University (then called Western Illinois State Normal School) was passed by the state legislature. Macomb was selected in 1900 as the location for the new normal school in west central Illinois, and on Tuesday, September 23, 1902, Western Illinois State Normal School opened its doors for the first official day of classes on the new campus.

In 1921, the General Assembly changed the name of Western Illinois State Normal School to Western Illinois State Teachers College, and in 1947, the school was renamed Western Illinois State College. Ten years later, the school became Western Illinois University. Illinois Gov. William G. Stratton approved the change July 5, 1957, and Western began its transformation into a university.

Today, Western offers numerous undergraduate and graduate degree programs, as well as two doctoral programs and several post-baccalaureate certificate programs, and is comprised of the main campus in Macomb, IL, and the urban Quad Cities campus in Moline, IL.





Western Illinois University

Western Hall



