Program of Study
Due to the long-standing tradition of preparing highly talented professional educators, teacher education has been designated as one of the Signature Academic Programs at WIU, and for over a century, the Department of Kinesiology has been preparing future physical educators. Graduates of the Physical Education Teacher Education (PETE) major are prepared for Illinois K-12 licensure through coursework and experiences in a program nationally recognized through CAEP/SHAPE America. The curriculum for the Bachelor of Science in Physical Education balances time spent in the classroom learning concepts, theory, and skills with time spent applying this information during hands-on experiences.

Coursework in the classroom includes: (a) six classes focusing on the scientific disciplines of movement and fitness (Anatomy and Physiology, Motor Behavior, Sport and Exercise Psychology, Physiology of Exercise, Motor Development, and Biomechanics); (b) physical education content courses including team sports (e.g. basketball, volleyball, soccer, etc), racket sports (e.g. badminton, tennis, pickleball, etc), individual and fitness activities (e.g. yoga, gymnastics, swimming, etc) and outdoor activities (e.g. high ropes course, rock climbing, orienteering, canoeing, etc); and (c) pedagogy courses where theoretically sound teaching principles are learned in courses such as Instructional Foundations, Skill Analysis and Assessment, Health Related Fitness, Elementary Methods, Secondary Methods, Curriculum Design, and Adapted Physical Education.

Along with this classroom knowledge, students engage in 100+ hours of field-based experiences that progress from peer teaching to observation in schools to teaching actual lessons at elementary, junior high/middle and high schools in Macomb and the surrounding communities. Upon completion of all coursework and field experiences, students complete two eight-week student teaching experiences at two different levels (elementary, middle school, or high school).

Faculty
Courses are taught by faculty members who hold degrees from universities across the United States. In addition to teaching, faculty are actively engaged in research and other scholarly activities, such as leading graduate and undergraduate research, writing articles published in professional journals and presenting at professional conferences.

Scholarships
The Department of Kinesiology annually awards 20 scholarships named for distinguished former faculty, chairpersons, associate deans, and alumni. The McKee and Alumni Scholarships are awarded to incoming freshmen, and the Yeast Scholarship is awarded to an incoming transfer student from an Illinois community college. The Brophy, Dittus, Garner, Hughes, McGuinness, Westendorf, and Sharp Scholarships are available to juniors and seniors, and the Mings Scholarship is awarded to a kinesiology major who is also a Western athlete. Detailed descriptions of the scholarships available can be found on the department website (wiu.edu/Kinesiology) and the university website (wiu.edu/Scholarships).

Honors in Kinesiology
Entering first year students who want to join the Centennial Honors College must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school
graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College must have a 3.4 GPA on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find more information, visit wiu.edu/Honors. In addition to completing an honors thesis under the direction of a department faculty member during their senior year, PETE majors participating in the Honors College must complete three required courses for honors credit.

Student Activities
All physical education majors are encouraged to be members of the Association of Physical Educators in Kinesiology (APEK), the professional services club. Active participation in this group provides students with valuable leadership, service, and professional opportunities, including attendance at the IAHPERD Physical Education Conference in November. PETE students with high academic achievement are also encouraged to join Phi Epsilon Sigma, the departmental honor society. In addition to these departmental groups, WIU has a wide variety of student organizations (visit osa.wiu.edu for more information).

After Graduation
PETE majors have opportunities to learn skills that allow them to be employed in their field before graduation in activities, such as refereeing, coaching athletics, instructing on climbing walls and high ropes courses, leading fitness courses, summer camps, and lifeguarding. Upon graduation students will meet requirements for Illinois teacher licensure in K-12 physical education and thus will be qualified for employment in public, charter and private schools. In addition, PETE majors will have opportunities to earn endorsements to teach health, dance, and other academic subjects.

For More Information and to Visit the Campus
For more information, visit our website at wiu.edu/Kinesiology/pe/ or contact us via email (kinesiology@wiu.edu) or phone (309-298-1981). To set up a campus visit, contact the Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU (742-5948) or (309) 298-3157, by emailing admissions@wiu.edu or scheduling your visit or tour online at wiu.edu/admissions by selecting “Visit Campus.” If you plan to visit campus, we highly encourage you to contact the department office (309-298-1981) as well so you can meet with a faculty member or the academic advisor who will be able to provide you with specific information about the PETE curriculum and the job opportunities available for graduates of the program.

Higher Values in Higher Education
Located in Macomb (population 18,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western Illinois University offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. WIU students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state of the art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free of distractions. Western offers a broad based athletics program, sponsoring 20 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision in the prestigious Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through the Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,500 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.

WIU’s GradTrac and Cost programs guarantee students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees, room, and board.

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 that includes sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.