Program of Study
The Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) department seeks to develop the ability to apply and achieve training and instructional goals in a wide variety of instructional settings, including corporate, higher education, and numerous other settings. Students will accomplish these objectives by learning to design, develop, and evaluate effective, efficient, and appealing instruction, instructional materials, and informational resources. Students in the IDT department have opportunities to acquire conceptual and hands-on experiences with effective teaching, learning, and collaborative design and development of professional instructional materials.

The revised Bachelor of Science degree in Media and Instructional Technology consists of a unified major that combines the areas of multimedia and Web-based development; instructional animation, games, and simulation; and corporate and organizational training. Students follow a diverse core that prepares them for employment in a wide range of positions in the field of media production and instructional technology.

The curriculum contains a range of core courses that set down a foundation in designing advanced technology applications and media. Each student is allowed the flexibility to further his or her career objectives and special interests by choosing a variety of directed elective courses. There is also an excellent student-to-teacher ratio, and students will have many chances to interact with their instructors as they progress through the program. The program is focused around hands-on experiences. Career preparation is provided through the development of projects, personal portfolios, and résumés. The Senior Portfolio and Résumé Preparation course helps students search for jobs and develop their job interviewing skills. Currently job placement is high in the field. The occupation of Instructional Designer has been listed by CNNMoney as one of the “Top 100 Jobs in America.”

It is also possible to continue on and earn a master’s degree in IDT as well, with most of the graduate degree classes offered online. There are also graduate weekend courses that focus on advanced production skills and instructional design. The master’s degree can be completed entirely online.

Faculty
Faculty in the Department of IDT are knowledgeable, professional, and committed to providing students with the best education available anywhere. Faculty members have extensive experience in their fields and enjoy national and international reputations for their professional contributions, including professional consulting, books, research, and international conference presentations. All faculty members actively engage in ongoing research and fieldwork, which means students learn the most current, real-world solutions, techniques, and applications. To find out more about the individual faculty, please visit the IDT website at wiu.edu/coehs/idt/faculty_and_staff/index.php.

Student Activities
Internships and independent studies provide valuable real-world work experiences and opportunities to explore some of the careers open to graduates of the IDT department. There is also an active student organization that arranges field trips to employers and brings in guest speakers throughout the semester. There is an annual job fair every spring, which brings in employers throughout the Midwest who are looking specifically for IDT graduates. Many of these employers are alumni of the IDT program.
Minors
The Department of IDT offers three minors:
1. Web Design
2. Digital Media
3. Photographic Media

Dreamweaver and web layout and usability techniques are taught in the Web Design minor. The Digital Media minor includes instructional three-dimensional modeling and animation, using professional software like Maya.

The photography studio and labs include facilities for digital and film photography, including large format digital photography, advanced camera techniques, lighting, and color photography. The Photographic Media minor can be completed concurrently with the IDT Bachelor of Science option for Instructional Multimedia and Web-Based Development.

For all three minors, courses are regularly updated to keep pace with emerging technological changes and developments. Each of the minors require 12 semester hours (sh) of core courses and 9 sh of directed electives, totaling 21 sh. This allows considerable flexibility in tailoring your minor to your career goals. For more information, see wiu.edu/idt/prospective_students/minors/wdm.html.

Transfer Students
Juniors and seniors with a transferable Associate's degree or Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) courses will have approximately two years remaining in their pursuit of getting a Bachelor of Science degree in Media and Instructional Technology. There are specific articulation agreements with numerous community colleges in the region.

Facilities
On-campus facilities include an advanced computer lab complex (with Mac and Windows capabilities), an interactive multimedia and CD-ROM production lab, electronic classrooms, digital cameras and camcorders, video production software suites and editing facilities, digital image processing equipment, fully equipped photographic darkrooms and processing labs, and 3-D animation software. In short, IDT students have access to up-to-date media production tools and instructional technologies.

Technology in the Curriculum
These software tools include Lectora for authoring and screen capturing, Maya and Strata 3D CX for 3-D modeling and animation, and the Adobe Creative Suite Master Collection, which includes Adobe Flash for developing interactive multimedia; Adobe Dreamweaver for web development; and Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign for digital imagery. There is also Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Aftereffects, and the Apple Final Cut Pro Suite for audio and video editing and professional post-production, as well as numerous other professional software applications. These high-end applications are integrated into the curriculum to assist students in developing professional quality video, interactive multimedia, and web-based projects.

Scholarships
To help students achieve their educational goals, the Financial Aid office assists eligible students in meeting their educational expenses while attending Western Illinois University. Assistance is provided through loans, grants, scholarships, and student employment. The department offers three scholarships specifically for the IDT undergraduate program.

After College
The field of instructional technology is growing and diversifying. As this occurs, a need arises for practitioners to specialize into well-recognized subfields. Graduates of the IDT undergraduate program are experiencing this need to focus on relevant specializations. Individuals with this degree are in demand and job placement is high. Students can also elect to complete a Master of Science degree either online or through a combination of online and weekend courses.

Careers in the IDT Field
- Web Content Manager
- Web Designer
- Online Course Developer
- Instructional Designer
- Instructional Developer
- Flash Developer
- Multimedia Specialist
- Multimedia Content Designer
- Training Project Coordinator
- Learning and Development Specialist
- Training Specialist
- Project Leader/Manager
- Instructional Game Designer
- Videographer
- eLearning Coordinator