Admission Requirements
Applicants for admission to the Western Illinois University Master of Science in Education (MSEd) degree program, with a major in Curriculum and Instruction, must hold a bachelor’s degree in education or a related field from an accredited institution, and be accepted by the WIU School of Graduate Studies, with a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75. The graduate program in Curriculum and Instruction does not lead to teacher licensure and is designed for individuals who already have earned an education degree. All candidates are required to teach children/students during the capstone course. This program does not lead to initial teacher licensure.

Students who do not meet the graduate school and department requirements for regular admission may be recommended for probationary admission.

Degree Requirements
The MSEd degree in Curriculum and Instruction requires a minimum of 30 semester hours (sh) of coursework. In addition to a capstone course, students will complete 9 sh in core requirements, and 12 sh in an area of specialization. Six hours of electives complete the program.

Career Opportunities
Graduates of the program enhance their professional expertise and are eligible for leadership positions within their schools and districts. They may serve as lead or mentor teachers. Alumni also seek positions as curriculum consultants, learning strategists and district coordinators. With a master’s degree, graduates may seek employment at the community college level.

Faculty Expertise
The faculty members in the WIU School of Education have a strong interest in helping teachers enhance their effectiveness and their ability to promote student learning. All faculty have practical experience in public schools. Professors in the department have a doctorate in their field. Faculty are actively involved in a variety of professional organizations; provide continuing education workshops for teachers; and publish books and articles in state, national and international journals.

Assistantship Opportunities
Graduate assistantships are available for those pursuing an MSEd degree, with a major in Curriculum and Instruction. This position offers the opportunity for graduate students to provide instructional, research and clerical support for faculty. A graduate assistant completes at least 9 sh of coursework each semester, and works with one or more faculty members for 20 hours each week. Graduate assistants do not pay tuition, and receive a monthly stipend. Assistantships are awarded for a single year, but may be renewed for one additional year. Positions are available on both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses.

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

Contact Information
Questions about the program:
School of Education
Associate Professor Sebastian Szyjka, graduate coordinator
SP-Szyjka@wiu.edu

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

Program Location:
Macomb, Quad Cities, Online
Distinctive Features
The MSEd degree in Curriculum and Instruction combines the rigor of an outstanding academic program with the personal attention of caring departmental faculty. Courses are offered in a variety of formats, including online. Areas of specialization that may be pursued within the program include early childhood education, literacy education, elementary/middle school curriculum, math, science and social studies education.

Programs available completely online include early childhood education, literacy education and elementary curriculum. Courses are continually being added as online offerings in other areas.

The graduate program in Curriculum and Instruction offers candidates the opportunity to fulfill the following goals:
• Understand how learners grow and develop; recognize that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, psychosocial and physical areas; and design and implement developmentally challenging learning experiences
• Provide developmentally appropriate environments that incorporate cognitive, linguistic, psychosocial and physical dimensions of learning where students take intellectual risks, practice democracy, work collaboratively and independently, and feel a sense of autonomy. Learning environments are arranged in ways that are caring, inclusive, stimulating and safe.
• Understand learners bring different abilities, talents, prior learning experiences and sets of values into the classroom, so they know how to access information about the values of diverse cultures and communities to assist learners as they develop attitudes of respect and appreciation for others
• Utilize content knowledge and curricular innovations to create sound, research-driven and integrative learning experiences across the disciplines
• Understand and use a variety of instructional strategies and resources to encourage learners to develop a deep understanding of current areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways
• Design and implement learning opportunities within and across the disciplines that engage learners purposefully in applying content knowledge
• Employ formative and summative assessments to systematically observe, monitor and document student learning
• Initiate positive, interactive relationships with families and communities as they support children’s learning and development
• Systematically analyze, evaluate and reflect upon teaching and learning experiences to incorporate best practices as they strive to improve instruction in their classrooms
• Collaborate to improve schools and advance knowledge and practice in their field

Featured Alum
I spent the last year and a half getting my master’s degree at Western through their online program. I have really enjoyed my time and I have learned a lot. I first decided on Western because it was the closest online program to where I was teaching. I did a lot of research on surrounding universities, and after weighing all my options, I knew Western was the right choice. I actually found out that a colleague of mine was also getting her master’s from Western at the same time and she only had positive things to say. Before I even applied, the faculty and staff were helpful and inviting. Once admitted, they were even more helpful when it came to signing up for classes, getting financial aid and other procedural items.

– Elizabeth Meyer, MSEd ’16

Accreditation
The WIU School of Education offers programs accredited by the National Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (NCATE). The goals of the Curriculum and Instruction graduate program are aligned with the core propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Courses within the program are designed to reflect the tenets of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) standards.

“I believe the grad program at WIU offered me exactly what I needed to become a more effective classroom teacher. The program offered me practical strategies to implement directly in my classroom, as well as timely and effective discussions and research on topics of interest to today’s practicing educator. I was also able to easily work the classes and coursework into my busy schedule.”

– Kathy Felt, MSEd ’07