The primary aim of the Western Illinois University Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies graduate program is to assist in the development of highly able, flexible, and empowered practitioners who will have a positive impact on student learning, their immediate professional setting, and their profession as a whole. Graduates of the EIS program currently work as teachers, instructors, educational consultants, policy analysts and academic advisors in schools, colleges, and other professional settings.

Admission Requirements
Students seeking admission must formally apply to the WIU School of Graduate Studies, declaring Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies as their area of study. Students must meet general admission requirements of the School of Graduate Studies, and have a minimum cumulative grade point average for all undergraduate work of 2.75.

Degree Requirements
The 34- to 35-semester hour (sh) M.S.Ed. degree requires that all candidates complete 21 to 24 sh of core coursework offered by the department. The remaining coursework will be specific to one of two candidate selected tracks: (1) Interdisciplinary Studies, and (2) Language, Culture, and Education. The tracks are intended to serve as the basic framework for a program of study.

The EIS M.S. Ed. degree emphasizes the development of critical thinking skills to make evidence-based decisions. The program allows students the flexibility to design a course of study to meet their own personal and professional goals.

Core courses in the Interdisciplinary Studies track include Cognition and Learning, Social Foundations and Multicultural Aspects of Education, Philosophy of Education, and Educational Assessment and Evaluation.

Core courses in the Language, Culture, and Education track include Foundations of Education for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations, Cultural Studies of Second Language Learners, Assessment of Bilingual and ESL Students, Cognition and Learning, and Social Foundations and Multicultural Aspects of Education.

Career Opportunities
Candidates completing the EIS M.S.Ed. degree are prepared to be leaders in, and advocates for, teaching and learning in a diverse society. The degree is appropriate for educators or professionals interested in education as it relates to the following fields: business and industry, government, higher education, K-12 education, and non-profit organizations. A number of EIS students have gone on to pursue doctoral degrees at various institutions.

Distinctive Features
The EIS M.S. Ed. is a program within the WIU Department of Educational Studies. This department is comprised of scholar-practitioners representing several core disciplines, including educational psychology, sociocultural studies, philosophical/historical studies, educational leadership, and college student personnel. Faculty members utilize their distinctive disciplinary orientations and accompanying methodologies to collectively address pressing educational, intellectual, and social concerns.

It is the union of an unusually diverse faculty and an uncommon approach to inquiry that makes the program and its options interdisciplinary. Distinctive to the program is the emphasis placed on supporting students as they engage in careful, multifaceted analysis of issues related to education at all levels. The program allows students the opportunity to apply their skills through a culminating project, individually designed around each student’s area of interest.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Programs
The department also offers a post-baccalaureate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). For program details, please refer to the post-baccalaureate section of the graduate catalog. Please note that acceptance into the TESOL certificate program does not guarantee acceptance into the EIS M.S.Ed. degree program. For Gainful Employment Disclosure, visit wiu.edu/grad/gainfulemployment.
Faculty Expertise
Faculty in the EIS program are dedicated to helping educators develop a foundation in theory and a knowledge base of current topics within the profession. EIS faculty are actively engaged in research, publication, and related professional activities. They regularly present at regional, national, and international conferences. Areas of faculty specialization and focus include the following:

- Educational Psychology
- Cognition, Learning, and Motivation
- Human Growth and Development
- Bilingual/Bicultural and ELL Education
- Higher Education and Educational Policy
- Research, Statistics, Program Evaluation, and Assessment
- Cultural, Multicultural and Social Issues in Education
- Historical and Philosophical Foundations of Education

Assistantship and Financial Opportunities
The department currently awards three competitive graduate assistantships (monthly stipends and tuition waivers) to full-time enrolled students. These assistantships afford students opportunities to work with faculty and assist in the day-to-day affairs of the department. Additional assistantships and tuition waivers are periodically awarded, based on available funding.

Facilities
Western Illinois University has state-of-the-art electronic classrooms at both the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses.

Contact Information
For admissions process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, Grad-Office@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/grad.

For specific program questions, contact Professor Thomas Cody, Graduate Program Coordinator, Department of Educational Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1183, EIS-Dept@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/ES.

WIU.EDU/ES

“In my experience as a grad student studying bilingual/bicultural education at Western, there was never a time that I felt lost or uncertain about what I needed to do. I will have nothing but great memories of my experience as a graduate student in the EIS program.”

— Matthew Perkins, M.S.Ed., 2007

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 gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, and veteran status.