The primary aim of the EIS 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, or policy analysts in schools, colleges, and other professional settings.

Admission Requirements
Students seeking admission must formally apply to the 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 GPA for all undergraduate work of 2.75. Prior to consideration for acceptance into this degree program by the Departmental Graduate Committee, a student must interview with a member of the Graduate Committee or the department chairperson and must submit a rationale statement identifying the degree suitability to his or her personal and professional goals and objectives.

Degree Requirements
The 32 semester hour (SH) M.S. Ed. degree requires that all candidates complete 18 SH of core coursework offered by the department. The remaining coursework will be specific to one of three candidate selected tracks: (1) Cognition and Instruction; (2) Language, Culture, and Education; or (3) Social Foundations of Education; or (4) Adult Education. The tracks are intended to serve as the basic framework for a program of study. Substitutions of coursework will only be permitted with the approval of the student’s advisor and that of the Graduate Committee or the department chairperson.

Core requirements for the program include EIS 500: Methods of Research, EIS 503: Educational Statistics, and EIS 504: Qualitative Educational Research. Each degree candidate will also complete 9 additional hours of coursework from the Educational Foundations core. All additional coursework is based on the specific track a candidate selects. Regardless of the track chosen, each candidate will conclude her or his program with a culminating action research project or thesis. Students must complete the program within six consecutive years.

Courses in the Cognition and Instruction track include Advanced Measurement and Evaluation, Seminar in Cognition, Motivating Students to Learn, and Human Development.

Courses in the Language, Culture, and Education track include Methods and Materials for Teaching in Bilingual Programs or Sociolinguistics, Assessment of Bilingual and ESL Students, and a choice from any of the following: Methods and Materials of Teaching English Language Learners; Linguistics for the Teacher of English Language Learners; TESOL Listening, Speaking and Pronunciation Methodologies; Computer Assisted Language Learning for TESOL; and Independent Study or Electives.


Courses in the Adult Education Track include Advanced Measurement and Evaluation, Learning through Adulthood, Adult Education and the Culturally Diverse, and Seminar in College Teaching.

† Course selection may depend on area of endorsement sought and will be advised by program coordinator.

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.
Career Opportunities

The EIS M.S. Ed. degree gives candidates a solid grounding in current research and thinking in education as well as the flexibility to focus on different areas of professional development. In the data-driven environment of today’s educational system, the emphasis on developing research and statistical skills through participation in the program is particularly timely and valuable. Candidates completing the EIS M.S. Ed. degree are prepared to be leaders in, and advocates for, the teaching profession and the advancement of student learning in the contemporary classroom. A number of EIS students have gone on to pursue doctoral degrees at various institutions.

Faculty Expertise

EIS faculty hold advanced degrees from major universities across the United States. Professors are actively engaged in research, publication, and related professional activities and 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/Social Issues in Education
- Historical/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 on a funding availability basis.

Distinctive Features

The Department of Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies is comprised of scholar-practitioners representing several core disciplines, including educational psychology, sociocultural studies, philosophical/historical studies, 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 department and its degree options interdisciplinary. Distinctive to the program is the emphasis placed on training students to engage in careful, multifaceted analysis of problems and issues related to education at all levels. The program is also unique in its emphasis on training graduate students in the areas of research, statistics, and data-driven decisionmaking.

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 Dr. Gloria Delany-Barmann, Interim department chairperson, Department of Educational and Interdisciplinary Studies, Western Illinois University, Horrabin Hall 115, Macomb, IL 61455, (309) 298-1183, EIS-Dept@wiu.edu, wiu.edu/eis.

“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