Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology – Technology Specialist Emphasis

*The Instructional Design and Technology graduate program at Western Illinois University offers a Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology degree, with a Technology Specialist emphasis. Coursework for this degree can be **completed online**. Field experiences can be arranged through the graduate students' schools.*

Admission Requirements

All candidates for the Master of Science (MS) in Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) at Western Illinois University, with a Technology Specialist emphasis, must meet the following requirements:

- Admission requirements of the WIU School of Graduate Studies, including the successful completion of undergraduate coursework, with an overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.75 (or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the final two years of undergraduate coursework). If undergraduate GPA requirements are not met, the department will consider admission for applicants who have completed at least 12 semester hours (sh) of graduate coursework, with a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.2 or higher, from a regionally-accredited university.
- Admission requirements of the IDT program include:
  - Submission of a 1,000-word essay describing the reasons for pursuing a graduate degree in the field of IDT
  - Submission of three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the candidate's academic potential
- If seeking State of Illinois licensure, through the IDT program, verification of Illinois teaching licensure and successful completion of the Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency
- If not seeking State of Illinois licensure, through the IDT program, a signed statement attesting to that is required
- Demonstration of meeting the National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers (NETS-T) by submitting a self-assessment of competencies. Applicants who lack basic competencies in microcomputer application software and/or have identified NETS-T deficiencies may be required to take additional courses or complete a faculty-approved plan of selected development activities.

Degree Requirements

Candidates pursuing the MS degree, with a Technology Specialist emphasis, may choose from three exit options: Portfolio Plan (35 sh), Applied Project Plan (32 sh) or Thesis Plan (32 sh). Field experiences are arranged by the student in K-12 settings, and must be approved by faculty members. Most candidates take two to three courses per semester, completing the program in approximately two to two-and-a-half years. Candidates have six years to complete the program.

Career Opportunities

The MS program opens up new or expanded career opportunities to educators by preparing graduates to provide leadership in the use of technology in K-12 classrooms and schools. Graduates may also become technology specialists working with educators at a building level. Graduates will be able to effectively facilitate the integration of technology in their own classrooms for teaching and learning. In addition, licensed teachers can apply for an Illinois Technology Specialist endorsement.

Graduates will demonstrate the ability to:
- Use instructional methods and strategies to support content learning through effective use of technology
- Teach technology concepts and skills related to learning technologies and technological literacy to students, educators and administrators

Program Location:
Online

Contact Information

Questions about the program:
Instructional Design and Technology
 Program
Professor Hoyet Hemphill,
 program director/graduate advisor
(309) 298-1091
HH-Hemphill@wiu.edu
wiu.edu/idt
-or-
Professor Leaunda Hemphill,
 IDT tech specialist coordinator
(309) 298-1186
LS-Hemphill@wiu.edu

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

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Higher Education*

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- Provide curriculum support and integration of technology across subject and content areas for enhanced instruction and learning.
- Provide technology support, mentoring and professional development opportunities to educators.
- Apply instructional design principles to assess and create instructional material using interactive multimedia, web-based and other emerging technologies.
- Assist in assessing, acquiring, and maintaining hardware, software and network products.

Program Curriculum

Candidates pursing the MS degree, with a Technology Specialist emphasis, may choose from three exit options: Portfolio Plan (35 sh), Applied Project Plan (32 sh) or Thesis Plan (32 sh). The curriculum is listed below.

Core Requirements (8 sh)

- IDT 500 - Preseminar (2 sh)
- IDT 505 - Foundations of Instructional Technology (3 sh)
- IDT 510 - Principles of Instructional Design (3 sh)

Directed Electives (15 sh)

- IDT 517 - Integration of the Internet and Multimedia in Education and Training (3 sh), includes 10-12 hours of field experience
- IDT 529 - Integration of Computer-Based Technology in Education and Training (3 sh), includes 10-12 hours of field experience
- IDT 534 - Technology Issues and Professional Development in Education and Training (3 sh), includes 10-12 hours of field experience
- IDT 539 - Hardware, Operating Systems, and Networking in Schools (3 sh), includes 40 hours of field experience
- IDT 595 - Technology Planning and Research (3 sh), includes 100 hours of field experience

Exit Options (9 or 12 sh)

- Applied Project Plan: IDT 600 Applied Project (3 sh), Electives (6 sh)
- Portfolio Plan: IDT 603 Graduate Portfolio (3 sh), Electives (9 sh)
- Thesis Plan: IDT 605 Thesis (3 sh), Electives (6 sh)

During each of the courses, candidates will add to their Technology Specialist Portfolio, which documents their knowledge, skills and dispositions in relation to the Technology Specialist standards. The Technology Specialist Portfolio must be completed by the end of the program.

Illinois Technology Specialist Endorsement

If they have a valid Illinois teaching license, graduates can apply for an Illinois endorsement for Technology Specialist and take the requested

Professional Development in Technology Integration

state tests. If the K-12 endorsement is desired, the MS program, with the Technology Specialist emphasis, must be completed. If only a technology specialist endorsement is desired on a current teaching license for an existing grade range, the candidate can complete the Educational Technology Specialist Post-Baccalaureate Certificate.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program

Instead of completing the MS degree, certified teachers can complete a 24-sh course of study through the Educational Technology Specialist Post-Baccalaureate Certificate (PBC). The certificate requires eight courses: IDT 505, 510, 517, 529, 534, 539, 595, and one of the following: IDT 515, 516 or 560. Students have three years to complete the PBC. After completion of the PBC, candidates can apply for an Illinois Technology Specialist endorsement if they have a valid Illinois teaching license and pass the required state tests.

For the Gainful Employment Disclosure, visit wiu.edu / grad / gainfulemployment.

Accreditation

Western Illinois University is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The Master of Science in Instructional Design and Technology with a Technology Specialist emphasis and the Technology Specialist PBC program are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education for meeting the Technology Specialist standards.

"The graduate program in Instructional Design and Technology was flexible enough that I could take classes while working full time. With the wide variety of classes available, I was able to tailor my classes to best suit my career in public education."

— Craig Reid, MS '05
Director for Technology
Moline-Coal Valley School District