

Dennis M. DeVolder, Ph.D.

Professor of Computer Science
Interim Associate Dean, College of Business and Technology
Western Illinois University

Primary Academic Fields: Computer Architecture • Digital Design • Ethics in Computing

Seasoned higher-education administrator with extensive experience in academic leadership, budget, personnel coordination, and strategic planning/implementation. Experience in organizational transition, redesign of workflow and responsibilities. Administrative focus on supporting the operational and strategic priorities of a multidisciplinary school and college, with emphasis on collaborative problem-solving, data-informed decision-making, and cross-unit coordination. Contributor to curriculum and program development in areas such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and big data, and to institutional initiatives including designation as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education.

Education

Ph.D., Computer Science

The Florida State University, 1996

Dissertation: *Radio Training System: Speech Recognition and Graphical Event Representation in a Scenario-Based Authoring/Tutoring Shell*

M.S., Computer Science

Western Illinois University, 1989

B.S., Health Science – Community Health Education

Western Illinois University, 1983

Administrative Leadership

Interim Associate Dean

College of Business and Technology, Western Illinois University
2026–Present

- Support **college-level budget planning and monitoring**
- Coordinate **personnel processes**, including director mentoring and contractual compliance
- Assist with **policy compliance, reporting, and governance processes**
- Serve as ex-officio member of several college committees, including Strategic Planning

- Coordinate initiatives across academic units
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Director, School of Computer Sciences

Western Illinois University

2013–2025

Interim Director, 2011–2012

- Lead **multidisciplinary academic unit operations including budgeting, personnel management, and planning**
 - Oversee a graduate program with explosive enrollment in the early 2020s. Manage faculty resources to meet the University’s obligation to graduate students without compromising the undergraduate mission.
 - Navigate the 2024 faculty reductions for the School through streamlined scheduling and reallocation of faculty resources. Guaranteed students would not be harmed relative to their progress through our programs.
 - Revise School Application of Criteria and Workload Equivalent documents
 - Implement and monitor **strategic planning initiatives at the School and College levels using SugarOKR and Elate**
 - Oversee **faculty recruitment, evaluation, and mentoring**
 - Coordinate **curriculum development and program assessment**
 - Support engagement with **advisory boards and industry partners**
 - Support CAE-CDE designation and institutional reporting processes
 - Maintain partnerships with **industry and alumni**
 - Consult with Director of Development to outline School priorities
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Academic Appointments

Professor, Western Illinois University — 2007–Present

Associate Professor — 2002–2007

Assistant Professor — 1996–2002

Instructor — 1989–1993

Strategic Planning and Program Development

- Strategic planning implementation using **SugarOKR and Elate**
- Development of curriculum initiatives in **artificial intelligence and big data**

- Initiation and participation in institutional efforts leading to **NSA/DHS designation as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education**
 - Coordination of cross-unit initiatives within the College
 - Participate in development of the Targeted Research Impact Program (TRIP).
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Teaching

Recent Courses include:

- CS 310 – Computer Organization I
 - CS 320 – Ethical, Social, and Legal Issues in the Digital World
 - CS 560 – Computer Architecture
 - CS 561 – Advanced Computer Architecture
 - CS 562 – Topics in Computer Architecture
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Publications

Refereed

DeVolder, D., Ghazanshahi, S., & Zadeh, J. (2008).
Software testing and quality assurance. *WMSCI 2008*, Orlando, FL.

DeVolder, D., & Zadeh, J. (2007).
Managing software design and development. *WMSCI 2007*, Orlando, FL.

Zadeh, J., & DeVolder, D. (2007).
Software development and related security issues. *IEEE SoutheastCon*, Richmond, VA.

DeVolder, D., & Zadeh, J. (2006).
Two-discipline development. *SCI 2006*, Orlando, FL.

Best Paper Award – Information Systems Development Session

DeVolder, D., & Litman, M. (2001).
Third-party help: Immediate assistance to support asynchronous computer-assisted education.
SCI 2001, Orlando, FL.

DeVolder, D. (1999).
A “zippered list” approach to adaptive scenario-based training. *Emerging Issues in Business and Technology*, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Non-Refereed

DeVolder, D. (2004).

Establishing ethics instruction for technology majors.

Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science. 96th Annual Meeting Supplement.

DeVolder, D. (2003).

Digital circuit lab in a box: Altera's cost-effective solution.

Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science. 95th Annual Meeting Supplement.

Maskarinec, M., DeVolder, D., Covert, J., & Dong, L. (2002).

Building a SQL cookbook. *Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science*. 94th Annual Meeting Supplement.

DeVolder, D., & Litman, M. (2001).

Enhanced asynchronous learning with The Coach 2.0. 93rd Annual Meeting Supplement.

Chen, T., Khan, R., Xian, B., & DeVolder, D. (2000).

Third-party help for CAI. 92nd Annual Meeting Supplement

DeVolder, D. (1999).

Helping students help themselves: Development of a computer-based coaching system.

Grants and Awards

Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

Broadband READY Grant (2022–Present)

State Farm Systems Priority School Grant

Advanced Applications and Development Lab (2014)

WIU Foundation Grant

Digital Circuit Design Laboratory (2002)

Dean's Indirect Cost Award

"The Coach" Computer-Based Help System (2000)

Professional Activities

Illinois State Academy of Science. Computer Science Division Chair (1999-2005), **Vice President** (2000-2001).

University and Professional Service

Department / School

Graduate Curriculum Committee – Chair (1999–2011)

Facilities Committee – Chair (1998–1999)

Personnel Committee – Member (12+ years)
Faculty Advisor, Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society (2000–Present)
Faculty Advisor, Computer Science Association

College

Management & Marketing Director Search Committee
Accounting, Finance, Economics, and Decision Sciences Director Search Committee (Chair)
CBT Grade Appeal Committees (Chair and Member)
CBT Board of Directors – Member & Alternate Member

University

President Search Committee – Co-Chair(2009-2011), Member (2020)
Faculty Senate – Member (2003-2004, 2014-2017), Vice Chair (2004-2007), Chair (2008–2011)
Graduate Council – Member (2003), Chair (2004–2006)
University Technology Advisory Group – Member (2011–Present)
Technology Security Committee – Member (2011—2019)
Student Judicial Programs – Hearing panelist (2007—present)
Council on Admission, Graduation, and Academic Standards – Member (1999—2001, 2011—2014),
Vice Chair (Spring 2022), Chair (2002-03)

Community

4-H Fair Judge – Computer Projects and Digital Art (≈15 years)
Lincoln Elementary School – Library and Computer Lab Volunteer (2004–2011)

References

Available upon request