

Master of Science in Education in Educational Studies



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

Degree Requirements

The Educational Studies (ES) program allows students the flexibility to design a course of study to meet their personal and professional goals.

The 33-semester hour M.S.Ed. in Educational Studies requires 21 semester hours of core coursework, offered by the program as specified by the student's selected option: (1) Professional Education or (2) Language, Culture and Education.

Courses in the **Professional Education option** include Learning and Instruction; Educational Philosophy, Ethics and Policy; Equity and the Socio-Cultural Contexts of Education; and Educational Assessment and Evaluation.

Courses in the **Language, Culture and Education option** include Foundations of Education for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations; Cultural Studies of Second Language Learners; Assessment of Bilingual and ESL Students; Educational Philosophy, Ethics and Policy; and Cognition and Instruction.

The ES program allows students the opportunity to use their skills to complete a thesis project or to assemble a portfolio of work that demonstrates mastery of the program objectives.

A Program Designed for the Working Professional

The ES program offers small classes, taught by full-time faculty, to provide opportunities for building personal relationships with professors.

- All courses are taught online to offer flexibility for busy lifestyles.

- Students have the option to meet with professors in person or through video conference.
- Our hybrid options (for cohort groups only) combine the flexibility of online classes with some face-to-face classes scheduled on evenings or weekends.

Students in the ES program can expect to examine, discuss and evaluate the following:

- Elements that foster an effective learning environment and strategies that promote student engagement and a sense of community in educational settings;
- Motivational processes that promote or hinder learning, with an emphasis on personal, social and environmental factors;
- The role of assessment in decision making, including assessment for fostering learning, documenting and communicating student achievement, teacher evaluation and program evaluations;
- Philosophical, ethical and legal perspectives for examining educational challenges, including educational aims, school reform, academic freedom and educator professional development;
- Processes involved in human cognition, emphasizing information processing, critical thinking and self-regulation;
- Developmental theory in psychology, with an emphasis on how development impacts students, teachers and the educational process;
- Issues and concerns facing adolescents, including biological, social and cognitive transitions that have an impact on the educational process;
- The cognitive, affective and social characteristics of learners throughout the adult years;

Program Location:

Macomb, Quad Cities, Online

Contact Information

Questions about the program:

School of Education
wiu.edu/coehs/es
(309) 298-1183

-or-

Professor Andrea Hyde,
graduate program coordinator
AM-Hyde@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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- Societal changes related to education, and the awareness and skills to recognize and address conditions that may deny equitable access to educational opportunities.

Distinctive Features

Distinctive to the WIU Educational Studies program is the emphasis placed on developing students to engage in careful, multifaceted analysis of problems, and issues related to education. The program is unique in its emphasis on training graduate students to think critically while making evidence-based decisions. Students completing the ES program are prepared to be leaders in, and advocates for, teaching and learning in a diverse society.

Faculty Expertise

The ES program is within the WIU School of Education. The school is comprised of scholar-practitioners representing several core disciplines, including educational psychology, sociocultural and linguistic studies, philosophical/historical studies, educational leadership and curriculum and instruction. 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.

Faculty in the ES program 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:

- 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 school 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.

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.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission to the ES program must hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and be accepted by the WIU School of Graduate Studies, with a minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 2.75.

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate Program

The ES program also offers a post-baccalaureate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). For program details, refer to the post-baccalaureate section of the graduate catalog. Acceptance into the TESOL certificate program does not guarantee acceptance into the ES M.S.Ed. degree program. *For the Gainful Employment Disclosure, visit wiu.edu/grad/gainfulemployment.*

“Completing a master’s through WIU ES was the best professional decision I’ve ever made. The experience was eye-opening in the best way possible. The professors in this program truly care about helping you find, grow and develop your passions.”

— Lindsay Meeker, director of English Learners, Wheaton CUSD 200