MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN

Welcome

Instructional design is the systematic analysis of learning and performance needs, and the development of effective strategies, processes, systems, and products to address those needs. The purpose of instructional design is to improve learning and performance for people of all ages in a variety of settings, including educational environments, workplaces, community settings, and homes. Professionals in the field of instructional design apply systematic instructional design methodologies and a variety of instructional strategies to accomplish established goals.

The online Master of Science in Instructional Design (Ref. #0428) prepares practitioners to assume leadership roles in public or private organizations. Program graduates are equipped to design and develop instructional elements such as instructional videos, online instructional activities, user manuals for instructors, instruction manuals for commercial products, professional development curricula for teachers, multimedia instructional units, training packs for trainers, instructional materials for vocational/technical courses, lesson and unit plans for classroom use, and educational curricula.

Admission Requirements

Students may qualify for admission to the MS in Instructional Design program in three ways:

Previously completed master degree

Admission may be recommended for applicants who hold a master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution and who earned an overall graduate GPA of 3.0 or higher.

GRE or GMAT Scores

- Admission with GRE:
  - Scores prior to August 2011 - The required GAP score based on the GRE is 2200 (GAP = GRE-V Plus GRE-Q Multiplied by your undergraduate GPA). An Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher is also required. Students who took the GRE General Test prior to October 1, 2002 must have a GAP score of 3500 or higher.
  - Scores after August 2011 - Minimum GAP score (Undergraduate GPA Multiplied by 100) PLUS (GRE Verbal PLUS GRE Quantitative) of 550, with a minimum verbal and quantitative score of 139 each. An Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher is also required.
- Admission with GMAT:
  - The required GAP score based on the GMAT score is 1050 (GAP = Undergraduate GPA Multiplied by 200 PLUS GMAT Score). An analytical writing score of 3.5 or higher is also required.
NO GRE or GMAT

- Applicants who hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university may apply for admission without a GRE or GMAT score if they achieved an overall undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or least a 3.2 GPA in their last 60 hours of undergraduate credit for the degree.

Students seeking admission in this way must also submit the supporting materials listed below as part of an admission portfolio, in addition to the application for admission, which is available at www.wku.edu/graduate.

- A letter of application that provides a rationale for admission without a GRE or GMAT score.
- A statement explaining the applicant’s career goal(s) and purpose(s) for pursuing the master's program in Instructional Design.
- A current vita.
- At least two letters of recommendation:
  - One letter of reference from a college/university instructor that details the applicant's potential for successful completion of the Master of Science program in Instructional Design.
  - One letter of reference from an employer or supervisor that addresses the applicant's dispositions that predict success as a member of an Instructional Design or Training Team.
- At least a 3-page paper that indicates the applicant’s analytical writing ability.

The admission decision by program faculty under this alternative is based on a review of the full set of admission documents. Applicants should strive to provide evidence of potential for completion of the degree and success in the field of instructional design.

Program Requirements

The program includes one 3 hour research course, 15 hours of required courses, and 12 hours of advisor-approved electives selected from selected professional emphasis areas. The program requires a total of 30 hours.

Research Foundations (3 hours):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDFN 500</td>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Required Core (15 hours):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID 560</td>
<td>Instructional Design Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 570</td>
<td>Systematic Instructional Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 587</td>
<td>Trends and Issues in Instructional Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*ID 590  Practicum in Instructional Design  3

*ID 595  Internship in Instructional Design  3

*The capstone course requires the development and application of an authentic and professional quality product for their approved workplace setting. A professional portfolio is compiled and submitted in the capstone course in multimedia format (CD, DVD, or web based) focused on projects and activities from across the program.

Professional Emphasis (12 hours):

- Students must take 6-12 hours of Instructional Design courses from the list below.
- If the 12 hours are completed in Instructional Design courses, no more than 6 hours between the ID 575 Special Topics in ID and ID 590 Practicum in ID courses may be taken.
- However, if a student elects to take 6 hours of advisor-approved adult education courses, educational technology courses, or transfer courses, then neither ID 575 Special Topics in ID or ID 590 Practicum in ID may be completed as part of the Professional Emphasis. The student must complete two other ID courses listed below.

Course Selections for Professional Emphasis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID 575</td>
<td>Special Topics in Instructional Design</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 590</td>
<td>Practicum in Instructional Design</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 572</td>
<td>Performance Improvement Analysis in the Workplace</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 577</td>
<td>Management of Instructional Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 583</td>
<td>Training Design and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 588</td>
<td>Multimedia Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID 585</td>
<td>Distance Education Opportunities and Challenges</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may take up to 6 hours from the following areas with advisor approval:

- Adult Education courses
- Educational Technology Courses
- Other Appropriate Areas

Program Flexibility and Prior Learning Assessment

Students with prior experience in the field of instructional design may submit module based course content in all courses except ID 560 and ID 570. The instructor will assess the project using that module's evaluation rubric.
Special Topics Course:

Students may design their own course with instructor approval by:

1. Designing an in-depth study on a topic of interest within the ID field.
2. Selecting modules from different ID courses and/or Completing an ID training program in the workplace.

Practicum Course: Students create an ID project for an authentic workplace with approval from instructor and workplace supervisor. This is a part-time placement arranged by the student or WKU.

Internship Course: In a full semester placement in an authentic workplace setting, students will do the work on an instructional designer and create at least one large project with approval from instructor and workplace supervisor. This is a longer placement arranged by the student or WKU.

Restrictions for Projects for Prior Learning/Experience Submissions:

Special Topics course:

- Cannot choose modules from a course that you have taken or will take in your program (in other words, this course is on your approved Form C or Program of Studies).
- Prior permission for any outside training to count in this course.
  - Must be clearly related to ID.
  - Training should have been completed less than 6 years from the time you complete the ID program.
  - Must provide clear evidence of completing the training and knowledge gained within specified time frame.

Submitting prior projects for modules within ID 572, 577, 583, 585, 587, or 588:

- Cannot submit the same project for two modules or two courses.
- Project submitted for evaluation should be completed by the student individually. It is possible for you to submit a project that is part of a team-based larger project for evaluation as long as you clearly indicate your role and the part you completed is significant and substantial to the project.
- Must be registered for a course before discussing modules or projects for Special Topics, practicum, or internship.
- Project submitted should not be older than 6 years by the time you complete the ID program.
- Projects can be submitted in the following formats: print, CD/DVD, or web-based.

Practicum and Internship placements:

You may complete this course in your own work setting if you are working in an instructional design setting or similar work environment. Otherwise, you may seek your own placement (particularly if you are not within 75 miles of the Bowling Green area). The Practicum or Internship professor will contact your supervisor several times during the course.

Financial Aid

Eligibility

Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose which is called FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.
Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran’s benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, student must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php.

Contact Information

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