

# Educational Studies

The Educational Studies curriculum is designed for students interested in becoming teachers, studying educational issues, or working with children and families in a variety of settings and occupations. Whatever one's professional pursuit, the educational journey at Illinois Wesleyan University is both demanding and rewarding. Our goal is to graduate teacher-scholars who are dedicated to social justice and are well-grounded in their disciplines; reflective, resourceful, and responsive in the field; and committed to challenging the inequities embedded in schooling and society.

## Teacher Education

Professional education is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to engage *all* children in meaningful learning regardless of ethnicity, socio-economic class, culture, language, gender or ability. At IWU, future teachers develop both disciplinary and pedagogical knowledge and skills to prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century classroom.

## The Interdisciplinary Major or Minor in Educational Studies

The interdisciplinary Educational Studies major or minor prepares students to work with children and families in government, private industry, adult education, correctional institutions, recreation, after-school care and social work or social policy. The Educational Studies curriculum also prepares students for graduate and professional school in education, social policy, school counseling or law.

## Why Educational Studies at Illinois Wesleyan?

- Professional education is embedded in the liberal arts.
- All students are placed in local schools during the very first course, the first year in Educational Studies.
- Fall semester student teaching takes place in an area school or through the Chicago Center Urban Teaching Program.
- Most student teachers have a year-long mentoring relationship with the student teaching cooperating teacher.
- Student teachers receive ongoing mentoring and support from their University supervisors during student teaching.
- All students conduct a year-long inquiry project senior year.
- All students participate in the University-wide John Wesley Powell Research Conference.
- Teacher certification candidates complete digital teaching portfolios documenting their competencies.
- The campus Student Education Association is affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA).
- Juniors and seniors are eligible to join the national honorary society (Kappa Delta Pi).

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## Teacher Certification/Endorsement

Elementary (K-8)  
Middle School (6-8)  
Secondary (9-12)  
    English Language Arts  
    Mathematics  
    Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics  
    Social Science: History  
French and Spanish (K-12)

*The above programs are accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education.*

## Interdisciplinary Concentrations in Educational Studies

*(non-certification course of study)*

Child and Family Studies  
Education and Public Policy  
Education, Ethnicity and Social Class  
Education and International Studies  
Education and Gender Studies

## A Sampling of Special Topics Courses in Educational Studies

Children and Families with Special Needs  
School and Community  
Globalization and Youth Advocacy  
Education and International Development  
Teaching and Learning with Technology  
Multicultural Children's Literature  
Environmental Education for Youth  
English Language Learners



“ We work closely with every student in Educational Studies.

The faculty offer an intellectually rigorous and challenging curriculum. At the same

time we provide individual mentoring, support and guidance so that all students may achieve academic and professional success. Educational Studies students create communities of peer support as they undertake the educational journey at Illinois Wesleyan.”

**Professor Robin L. Leavitt**

Educational Studies Department Chair

## Learning from a Quality Faculty

Educational Studies faculty have extensive experience working with children and adolescents in public schools and other settings, as well as within university teacher education programs. Our collective experience enables us to bring together the theoretical and the practical in meaningful ways for our students.

- **Dr. Robin Leavitt**, *Professor and Chair of Educational Studies*  
*Ph.D. — University of Illinois – Urbana*  
Specializations include sociology and philosophy of education, teacher inquiry, and child and family studies.
- **Dr. Irving Epstein**, *Professor of Educational Studies and Associate Dean*  
*Ph.D. — University of California, Los Angeles*  
Specializations include educational policy, secondary history education, comparative and international education, and children’s rights.
- **Dr. Ana Floriani**, *Associate Professor of Educational Studies*,  
*Ph.D. — University of California – Santa Barbara*  
Specializations include elementary social studies and literacy education, and English language learners.
- **Dr. Leah Nillas**, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*  
*Ph.D. — Illinois State University*  
Specializations include K-12 mathematics education, educational technology and teacher inquiry.
- **Dr. Jeanne Koehler**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of Educational Studies*  
*Ph.D. — University of Illinois – Urbana*  
Specializations include secondary English education, aesthetics, teacher education and professional development and entrepreneurial leadership.
- **Pennie Gray**, *Visiting Instructor of Educational Studies*  
*M.S. — Illinois State University*  
Specializations include elementary and middle school, literacy and reading, and composition.
- **Amy Jacobi**, *Instructor and Field Placement Coordinator*  
*M.A. — Northeast Missouri State University*  
Specialization is elementary science education.

## Putting Learning into Practice

Fieldwork over four years of professional and liberal arts education integrates theory and practice. IWU graduates teach all over the state of Illinois, including urban, rural and suburban areas. Others venture across the U.S. to states such as Georgia, Hawaii, California, Alaska, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. Graduates have also found employment in Japan, Mexico and European countries. Many go on to graduate school in areas such as special education or counseling. Interdisciplinary majors pursue various careers working with children and families.



**For Further Information,  
Write or Call:**

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