



Master of Education
In
Instructional Design & Technology

Program Handbook

2026–2027 Academic Year

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Instructional Design & Technology Program

Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Program Mission

The mission of the Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) program at West Texas A&M University is to prepare innovative and reflective professionals who design, develop, and implement effective learning experiences across diverse educational and organizational contexts. By integrating theory, research, and applied practice, the program empowers students to lead, serve, and advance society through instructional technology and design.

Program Vision

Guided by a commitment to excellence in teaching, learning, and innovation, the IDT program envisions graduates who are recognized as transformative leaders in educational and organizational design. Our graduates will be adept at leveraging technology to create engaging, equitable, and accessible learning environments that meet the needs of learners locally, regionally, and globally.

Welcome to the Instructional Design & Technology Program

A Message to Our Students

Welcome to the Instructional Design & Technology (IDT) program at West Texas A&M University. You are joining a community of learners, educators, and innovators dedicated to designing and implementing high-quality, engaging, and impactful learning experiences. Our program emphasizes the integration of theory, research, and practical application to prepare professionals who can meet the evolving demands of education and organizational learning in various contexts.

What You Will Experience

As a student in the IDT program, you will:

- Develop advanced skills in instructional design, technology integration, and learning experience development.
- Engage in hands-on projects and collaborative learning opportunities that connect theory to practice.
- Reflect critically on your work to foster professional growth and informed decision-making.
- Explore innovative approaches and technologies that enhance learning for diverse audiences.

Your Role in the Program

Your engagement, creativity, and dedication are central to your success. Active participation, timely communication, and thoughtful collaboration will help you maximize your learning and make meaningful contributions to your peers and the program.

Looking Ahead

We are excited to have you join our community and look forward to guiding and collaborating with you as you advance your professional and academic goals. This program offers a unique opportunity to shape the future of instructional design and technology—your ideas, effort, and achievements will make a lasting impact.

Program Structure

Program Admission

To be admitted into the Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) graduate program, students must:

- Meet all graduate admission requirements of West Texas A&M University.
- Meet with an adviser to plan and file a Plan of Study within the first 12 credit hours of graduate study.
- Have a 2.75 GPA or higher
- Official transcripts showing an earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Professional Resume/CV
- Letter of Interest. Please ensure you include:
 - Your previous technical experience
 - Professional and academic goals
 - Why you chose this program

Deadlines

- August 1 for fall admission
- December 1 for spring admission
- May 1 for summer admission
- **Note:** International students are advised to review the [application deadlines](#) set forth by International Student Services.

Access the [WTAMU Graduate School application](#) to begin the application process.

Program Requirements

The IDT program requires a total of 36 credit hours, distributed across Educational Core Courses, Instructional Design Core Courses, and Electives.

1. Educational Core Courses – 9 Credit Hours (CH)

Required by all students:

EDPD 6303 – Education Research (3CH)

Select 6 credit hours from the following options:

EDT 6345 – Working with Diverse Adult Learners Through Neuroscience (3CH)

EDPD 6085 – International Studies (1–3CH)

COUN 6330 – Cross-cultural Counseling (3CH)

EDPD 6308 – Service Learning (3CH)

EDLD 6311 – Executive Leadership and Group Dynamics (3CH)

EDPD 6305 – Curriculum Theory and Analysis (3CH)

EDPD 6329 – Human Development (3CH)

2. Instructional Design Core – 21 Credit Hours (CH)

All students complete 21 credit hours in instructional design and technology courses.

Instructional Design Core courses include:

EDT 6305 – Computer Productivity Tools (3CH-Fall)

EDT 6310 – Theory of Technology-Assisted Instructional Design (3CH-Summer 2)

EDT 6355 – Videography for Educators (3CH-Spring)

EDT 6378 – Instructional Module Development with Authoring Tools (3CH-Fall)

EDT 6380 – Designing Effective Internet Sites for Learning (3CH-Fall)

EDT 6382 – Advanced Web Design (3CH-Spring) ***This course expected to be phased out after 2027SP semester with a new course taking its place in the 2028SP semester***

EDT 6384 – Advanced Productivity Applications (3CH-Spring)

EDT 6385 – IDT Project: Instructional Design and Technology Project (3CH-Multiple)

EDT 6392 – Special Topics (3CH-Multiple)

EDT 6394 – Individual Problems in Instructional Design and Technology (3CH-Multiple)

Note: Students select courses to meet the 21-hour core requirement. Project, Special Topics, and Problems courses are typically taken near program completion.

3. Electives – 6 Credit Hours (CH)

Students must complete 6 credit hours of graduate-level courses approved by an adviser. Electives are typically selected from the EDT courses offered, but other 5000- or 6000-level graduate courses may be taken with advisor approval, allowing students to tailor their studies to specific professional or academic interests.

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the program, students will be able to:

- Design research-based digital instructional experiences that foster creativity, critical thinking, and learner-centered engagement (ISTE 5: Designer).
- Produce professional projects that enhance teaching and learning across delivery formats (ISTE 6: Facilitator).
- Apply advanced productivity and data analysis tools to improve instructional planning, assessment, and decision-making (ISTE 2: Leader; 7: Analyst).
- Create accessible, responsive, and interactive learning objects that meet professional standards for usability, compliance, and instructional effectiveness (ISTE 5: Designer).
- Apply principles of design and visual communication to develop clear, aesthetically engaging instructional products (ISTE 5: Designer).
- Demonstrate ethical and proficient use of professional software tools to create and manage instructional media (ISTE 3: Citizen; 6: Facilitator).
- Evaluate the effectiveness of digital instructional products using learner data, accessibility audits, and usability testing to refine design (ISTE 7: Analyst).

Delivery Format and Technology Requirements

- Courses are delivered online through WTCClass, the WTAMU Learning Management System (LMS).
- Some courses may include synchronous sessions, collaborative projects, or software-based assignments.
- Students are expected to have access to a computer with the required software and hardware, and reliable high-speed internet, for successful participation in the program.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that their computer meets or exceeds the minimum system requirements for all required course software.
- Students are strongly encouraged to review software and hardware specifications before registering for courses to confirm compatibility with their device. Please review the [course syllabus](#) for the required software for each course.
- Commonly used applications throughout the program include products from Adobe and Microsoft, though some courses may require additional specialized software or web-based tools.
- Computers operating only at minimum specifications may experience slow performance, instability, extended rendering/export times, or application crashes when working with large multimedia projects.

- Students are encouraged to maintain adequate storage space, updated operating systems, and regular file backups to help prevent data loss or workflow interruptions.
- Reliable high-speed internet access is required to access online course materials, upload assignments, participate in course activities, download software updates, and use cloud-based applications or services.
- Chromebook devices, tablets, and some entry-level computers may not support required software applications and may not be appropriate for all courses within the program.

Academic Policies

- GPA Requirement: Minimum 3.0 to remain in good standing.
- Maximum Course Load: 9 credit hours per semester unless approved by the program director.
- Transfer Credits: Up to 9 credit hours may be transferred from an accredited institution with approval.
- Comp Exam Approval: Faculty approval is required prior to submission for final evaluation.

Comprehensive Examination

The Comprehensive Examination (Comp Exam) is a required culminating assessment for all degree-seeking graduate students in the Instructional Design and Technology (IDT) program. It is designed to evaluate mastery of program competencies and readiness for professional practice or further study. The exam is typically offered three times per year (fall, spring, and summer). Students must have completed all coursework or be enrolled in their final course(s) to be eligible to register for the comprehensive exam.

Please see the Graduate School Webpage for additional information:

<https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/graduate-school/current-students/comprehensive-exam.html>

Format:

- The exam may include a combination of written responses, case studies, problem-based scenarios, applied project components, and a portfolio.
- The format is designed to assess both theoretical understanding and practical application of instructional design and technology knowledge.
- During the testing window, you will complete your exam. You will determine your own testing time during the window.

****If testing accommodations are needed, please inform your academic advisor and contact WTAMU's Office of Student Accessibility to register and request accommodations for the exam:** <https://www.wtamu.edu/student-support/student-accessibility/index.html>

Evaluation:

- The exam is graded on a pass/fail basis, with faculty using established rubrics aligned to program learning outcomes.
- If a student fails the first examination,
 - One semester or the equivalent (16 weeks or two summer sessions) must elapse before the student may take the exam again. Additional coursework, research, or directed study will be recommended for the student in the interim.
- The second failure of a comprehensive examination will result in automatic removal from the program.

Scheduling:

- Once a student has completed all coursework or is enrolled in their final course(s), a student may submit their Graduate Comprehensive Examination Application at: https://wtamuuw.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1FW9125FVTXw6EK
- Deadline to submit applications:
 - Fall – October 1
 - Spring – March 1
 - Summer – June 1
- Approved students will be added to a course in WTClass in which their exam will become available during the testing window.
- Typical testing windows:
 - Fall – November
 - Spring – April
 - Summer – July

Preparation:

- Students are encouraged to review key course materials, projects, and applied learning experiences from their coursework.
- Guidelines, sample questions, and study resources to support comprehensive exam preparation are available within the WTClass course at least 1 month before the testing window for the semester in which the comp exam will be completed.

Rubric – Written Comprehensive Exam

Your responses will be graded on the following areas. Aim to demonstrate depth of knowledge, strong application, and professional writing.

Category	What We're Looking For
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Understanding of Key Ideas	Show you understand the main concepts, theories, and tools from your courses. Connect them to the bigger picture of instructional design and technology.
Application to Practice	Use clear, specific examples of how you would apply what you learned to real-world instructional design challenges. Go beyond describing—explain <i>how and why</i> your solution works.
Critical Thinking & Reflection	Analyze, compare, and evaluate ideas. Reflect on what you have learned and how it shapes your professional practice. Show more than a surface-level description.
Organization & Clarity	Write in a clear, logical, and professional way. Organize your response so it flows well and is easy to follow. Proofread for grammar and readability.
Use of Evidence	Support your points with course materials, research, or professional standards when appropriate. Show that your ideas are backed up, not just opinions.

Scoring

- Each response is scored across these five areas.
- Strong responses show deep understanding, practical application, thoughtful reflection, clear writing, and good support.
- Scores translate into:
 - **Excellent (Pass with Distinction)** – Strong in nearly all areas
 - **Pass** – Solid, demonstrates competence
 - **Low Pass / Conditional Pass** – Weak or uneven, may require revision
 - **Fail** – Lacks key elements

Application for Graduation

Students must apply for graduation. Students are advised to submit their applications well in advance of the deadline date. Basic graduation application information:

Graduation Month	Application Available	Deadline to Apply
December Graduation	February 15	August 1
May Graduation	September 15	December 1
August Graduation	December 15	May 1

The latest application deadlines, form instructions, and additional information are available at: <https://www.wtamu.edu/academics/graduation/graduation-application.html>