

# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

## EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Many of us see our signatures as simply recorded expressions of our name. In the Illinois Wesleyan Educational Studies Department, we see your signature as your proclamation of who you are to the rest of the world. During your time at IWU, we will work with you to create three signatures. Your first signature is your social justice signature. It is formalized when you complete social justice projects and engage with people who come from diverse backgrounds and have experiences different from your own. Your second signature is your teaching signature, which occurs when you teach other people's children in the classroom and show that you have made a difference in their learning, their development, and their lives. Your final signature represents your effort to make a difference in the teaching profession as a scholar, by actively researching an educational problem and presenting your findings at our annual Inquiries into Teaching and Learning Conference. These three signatures testify to your growth as a caring, dedicated teacher/scholar for social justice. They don't completely define who you are, but signify what you might want to become. It will be our pleasure to work with you on this journey.

### Teacher Education

To become a great teacher you need to learn how to help all children learn. This means that you need to understand the challenges children confront inside and outside of the classroom as well as the nature of the ideas with which they need to engage. In short, you need to become an expert in the curriculum relevant to your teaching, and you need to understand the needs of the children with whom you interact. At the same time you need to appreciate the gifts that your students bring to the classroom, and thus also appreciate and affirm their diverse backgrounds, be they related to ethnicity, socio-economic class, culture, language, gender, ability or sexual orientation. We are excited to work with you as you begin one of the world's most interesting and important professions.

### 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, museums, 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?

- All students are placed in local schools concurrent with their first course *Education and Social Justice*. It is a unique advantage to gain hands-on experience in actual classrooms during your first year in college.
- Senior year (fall semester) student teaching takes place in an area school or through the Chicago Center Urban Teaching Program.

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### Teacher Licensure Programs:

Elementary (1-6)

Secondary (9-12)

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Science: Biology, Chemistry,  
Physics

Social Science: History

French and Spanish (K-12)

### Reading Teacher Coursework:

Foundations of Literacy:  
Reading, Writing, and Oral  
Communication

Child and Adolescent Literature

Advanced Assessment and  
Diagnosis of Reading

Advanced Interventions for  
Struggling Readers

Internship in Reading

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

### Interdisciplinary Concentrations in Educational Studies:

*(non-licensure course of study)*

Child and Family Studies

Education and Public Policy

Education and International  
Studies



“We work closely with every student in Educational Studies. The faculty offer an intellectually rigorous and challenging curriculum. At the

- Most student teachers have a year-long mentoring relationship with their cooperating teachers.
- Student teachers receive ongoing mentoring and support from their University supervisors during student teaching.
- All students conduct a year-long inquiry project senior year and participate in the John Wesley Powell Research Conference.
- The campus Student Education Association is very active, and is affiliated with the National Education Association (NEA).

### 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.

- **Irving Epstein**, *Ben and Susan Rhodes Professor of Peace and Social Justice, Chair of Educational Studies, Director of the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice*  
*Ph.D. — University of California, Los Angeles*  
Specializations include educational policy, secondary history education, comparative and international education, children's rights and international human rights.
- **Leah Nillas**, *Associate Professor of Educational Studies and Coordinator of Secondary Education*  
*Ph.D. — Illinois State University*  
Specializations include K-12 mathematics education, educational technology and teacher inquiry.
- **Pennie Gray**, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies and Coordinator of Elementary Education*  
*Ph.D. — Illinois State University*  
Specializations include elementary and middle school, literacy and reading, and composition.
- **Margaret Evans**, *Assistant Professor of Educational Studies Ph.D. — University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*  
Specializations include child study, assessment, evaluation, and teacher education policy.
- **Jen Crider**, *Director of Field Placement*  
*M.S. — Bradley University*  
Specializations include elementary and fine arts 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.

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. Modeling a commitment to social justice means valuing each other's ideas and insights in an effort to collectively address the challenges of enabling every child to learn and develop according to her or his capacity. By creating meaningful faculty to student and student to student interactions, we create a supportive university learning community that reaffirms our understanding of and commitment to making schools more just and more responsive to students' needs.”

### Professor Irving Epstein

Educational Studies Department  
Chair

**ILLINOIS WESLEYAN**  
UNIVERSITY

### For Further Information, Write or Call:

#### Dr. Irving Epstein

Ben and Susan Rhodes Professor of  
Peace and Social Justice, Chair,  
Educational Studies Department,  
Director of the Center for Human  
Rights and Social Justice  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
P.O. Box 2900  
Bloomington, IL 61702-2900  
309/556-3105  
iepstein@iwu.edu

[www.iwu.edu/edstudies/](http://www.iwu.edu/edstudies/)