Western Michigan University’s George G. Mallinson Institute for Science Education is a research-oriented unit that is devoted to science education and to the study and improvement of how people teach and learn science.

The Institute offers two graduate degrees (M.A. and Ph.D. in Science Education), targeted toward teachers of science at both both k-12 and college levels. Each graduate program is science content focused, with attention to inquiry and effective pedagogy.

The M.A. program, which is offered completely online, is designed for anyone interested in the teaching of science. It will help students improve their knowledge of science as well as their expertise as teachers of science. The M.A. program also prepares students for entrance to the Ph.D. program in Science Education.

The Ph.D. program specializes in the preparation of college teachers of science and science teacher educators. There are degree tracks in science teacher education, biology education, chemistry education, geosciences education, physical geography education, and physics education. This program provides a rich understanding of the history of science education and current reform efforts.

The Ph.D. program also offers a critical understanding of pertinent issues in cognitive psychology and cognitive science, and a critical understanding of the major research traditions in science education. It also provides a graduate level understanding of at least one science discipline that will inform subsequent research and teaching in that area, and a critical understanding of the role of technology in facilitating science teaching and learning.

Reasons to Choose Our Programs...

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Science Education (M.A., Ph.D.)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
With ten full-time science education professors and two adjuncts, the Mallinson has a very large cadre of science education professionals. As a result, students have exposure to a wide range of expertise. These include discipline based research (in life, earth and physical sciences), research on the effective teaching of science, history and philosophy issues in science education, the nature of science, curriculum and reform issues, gender issues, assessment issues, and both k-12 and college science education research.

Admissions
Applications for the Ph.D. program are officially due mid-February of each year; however, prospective students are encouraged to apply early. The GRE is required, three letters of recommendation, and a CV. A two-page personal statement is also required, and should be informative about the applicant’s background, career aspirations, and reasons for applying to the Mallinson Ph.D. program.

Applications for the M.A. program are accepted on an on-going basis, and applicants must complete the university on-line application (no GRE scores are required).

For additional application information visit program website: www.wmich.edu/science/ or on Facebook at “Mallinson Institute for Science Education” and at “WMU Online Science Education MA”

Graduate Assistantships/ Associateships
A limited number of these assistantships are available to full time students. They typically include a stipend, tuition, and research expenses, and usually involve teaching in the introductory science program for preservice k-8 teachers. In addition, various faculty have grant-funded projects, and some students gain research assistantships on these projects.

Contacts
Dr. Bill Cobern,
Director
bill.cobern@wmich.edu

The Mallinson Institute for Science Education:
(269) 387-5398

Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.