“One thing I love is that we can focus on our own interests. Our advisors are good at helping you narrow your focus. But LSRI lets you be what you want to be.”

— JACKIE POPP

No one else does what we do.

The Learning Sciences Research Institute’s Ph.D. program is unique because unlike traditional education programs, we help you address today’s pressing challenges in teaching and learning by using a truly interdisciplinary approach.

You will craft a tailored study plan that combines rigorous learning sciences coursework with specializations such as literacy, mathematics, natural sciences, computer sciences or social sciences.

From the start, you will work with the leading researchers in the field to develop the tools, theories and technologies to help students of all ages and all backgrounds find success.

Help us take learning to a new level.

Join one of the nation’s leading learning sciences doctoral programs to create better tools for teaching and learning in formal and informal learning environments, and in the workplace.

“We find solutions for 21st century educational challenges.

LSRI is an interdisciplinary research institute on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

We are home to some of the nation’s leading researchers in the learning sciences field who work to identify and solve critical learning and instructional challenges in literacy, mathematics, science and the social sciences.

We design and test innovative interventions, models, tools and technologies to support teachers and students in learning environments around the globe.

We also offer a unique doctoral program dedicated to cultivating the next generation of learning scientists.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

It’s a new and growing field — so it’s one where everything isn’t set in stone yet and there’s lots of opportunities for you to learn, grow and explore.”

— DAVE BECKER

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For DAVE BECKER, teaching kids to search for animal tracks or how to identify baby lemurs is all in a day’s work. The Chicago Zoological Society — home of the Brookfield Zoo — and other institutions at home and abroad turn to Dave to help them design educational programming for children and families. Dave also works closely with Chicago’s Eden Place Nature Center to understand the community’s changing sense of identity after the green space was built in an urban neighborhood. He is able to put into practice what he learns at LSRI through his interdisciplinary program in human development and learning sciences. In 2013, Dave was named one of the Champions of Change by the White House to honor his work with early childhood environmental education within the zoo, as well as within the national and international zoo and aquarium community.

Every day, teachers grapple with vast amounts of student information to try to understand how to make lessons — and learning — better. They have few resources to turn to because data-driven decision-making is a burgeoning field. RAYMOND H. KANG is among the vanguard. He uses data-mining, coding and other techniques to help teachers put the information to good use, such as by developing a new breed of assessments that better capture student growth. Raymond also designs ways to look at how people learn when they interact with Web-based applications that use GIS-mapped data, such as applications that could one day be used in social science classrooms. “At LSRI,” he says, “I am in a position where I can be helping people in a real way.”

Where learning is a zoo

High-tech, higher performance

Making practice perfect

It’s not always easy for teachers to introduce new ideas into a classroom. But JACKIE POPP stands shoulder to shoulder with them to fix problems when they do arise. Through LSRI’s innovative doctoral program, Jackie’s studies led her to collaborate with history teachers as they implement new ways of engaging middle-school students to think critically and craft arguments. Jackie works with teachers to see where the process can be improved or where the teachers can be more principled in practice so that the rigorous lessons they’ve planned will better address their pupils’ needs. Jackie’s dedication to the finer details of everyday instruction is one small step that is making a big impact on today’s classroom teachers.