

# School of Information Studies

## Information Science & Technology (IST) Major

We are all living in an information-oriented digital society in which a high percentage of workers are involved in the production, organization, retrieval, and dissemination of information. With a wide breadth of technological knowledge about information and how it can be manipulated to benefit yourself and those around you, you'll be better equipped for success in this new information-oriented society.

Building on a general undergraduate education, the IST program immerses students in information science, information architecture, human factors in information seeking and use, information organization, storage and retrieval and applications of the Internet. Learn how information is retrieved, organized, manipulated, repackaged and applied in nearly every aspect of our increasingly digital culture, economy and world.

The core courses in the IST program encompass the study of the concepts and tools of information science, information architecture, and information technology; all of which are fast becoming important tools in any career.

**Excellent Faculty.** Our faculty has earned recognition on regional, national and international platforms for their research. Many have worked for years in the field and bring a wealth of insight to students in their classrooms. The SOIS IST boasts the smallest student to faculty ratio at UWM, providing more attention to our students.

**Study Abroad.** The School of Information Studies is dedicated to providing a unique learning experience. The Study Abroad programs offered by SOIS provide an experience that will enhance a student's education personally, professionally, and socially. An international experience with an intimate look at the global information economy helps prepare students as leading information professionals. SOIS study abroad opportunities include programs in Austria, South Africa, Scotland, South Korea and Japan.

### **Active student organization.**

The SOIS Student Organization meets on a regular basis hosting social gatherings, outings, and activities to help facilitate camaraderie amongst students, graduate students, faculty and administration.

## Job Prospects

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, overall employment of computer network, system, and database administrators is projected to increase by 30 percent from 2008 to 2018. Demand for web development and web administrators is expected to be strong. Growth is expected to be especially strong for positions related to specific

software programs and technical consulting. In short, the prospective job markets for IST graduates in the future look excellent.

From the classroom, our students go on to positions as:

- Network Administrators
- Information Architects
- Database Developers
- Programmer Analysts
- Social Media Managers
- Data Analysts
- IT Support Specialists
- Multimedia Specialists
- Systems Analysts
- Digital Library Specialists
- Computer Hardware Technicians
- Business Information Coordinators
- E-Commerce Web Administrators

**UWM's Career Development Center:** This center provides students and alumni with a full range of career services for their lifetimes. For example, current students can get assistance building resumes, gaining interviewing skills, or searching for employment.

## Scholarships

The School of Information Studies provides assistance to undergraduate students with the following scholarships:

- Dean's Information Science & Technology Scholarship \$1,000
- SOIS New Freshmen Scholarship \$1,000
- Dean's Diversity Scholarship \$1,000
- SOIS Transfer Student Scholarship \$1,000
- Attitude & Aptitude Scholarship \$500

Criteria, application processes, and deadlines may vary. Students should contact their academic advisor for more information on how to become eligible for these scholarships.

## Customize your Program with a Minor or Certificate

The IST program notably allows students to customize their program by developing a focused area of study or by choosing a minor or certificate in another field. This flexibility enhances the IST degree and allows for specialized education and experience that prepares graduates for the varying career options available in the information professions. Students wishing to pursue a certificate or minor in another field are

**encouraged to make this decision early in their program,** and speak to their academic advisor to plan their course of study.

### **BSIST + Minor**

The flexibility within the IST program allows students to graduate with a bachelor's degree as well as up to two minors in other areas. Examples of fields that coordinate well with the IST degree include: computer science, business, health care administration, international studies, communications, and English.

### **Health Care Informatics Certificate**

The Health Care Informatics Certificate offered cooperatively with the UW-Milwaukee College of Health Sciences prepares students to understand, analyze and evaluate information technology used to perform administrative and clinical tasks in a health care organization.

### **Digital Arts and Culture Certificate**

Students intent on broadening and deepening their university education by strengthening abilities in creating digital art and media, critically analyzing individual works as well as systems of production and distribution, and understanding cultural implications of our increasing use of new technologies, benefit from participation in the program.

### **Online Opportunities**

IST courses are offered onsite and online each Fall, Spring and Summer semester to accommodate students who are busy balancing work, family & school, or those who are just interested in learning without the constraints of a campus-based program. IST students may complete their entire IST degree online, onsite at UWM, or a blend of both.

## **The Curriculum**

The IST major consists of 27 core Information Science and Technology credits, covering the concepts and tools of information science, information architecture, and information technology. The IST degree requires a minimum of 120 credits for completion.

The following plans illustrate possible course schedules in earning the BSIST degree. These plans are models for selecting courses in four year and two year sequences to complete degree requirements. These plans are not intended to substitute for academic advising. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their SOIS academic advisor to customize a course of study.

## School of Information Studies

### Bachelors of Science in Information Science and Technology

#### Four Year Graduation Plan Example\*

	Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Freshman	English 102	3	Communication Elective	3
	Math 105	3	Social Science	3
	INFOST 110	3	Natural Science	3
	INFOST Elective	3	INFOST 210	3
	General Elective	3	General Elective	3
		15		15
			Freshmen Year Credits	30
Sophomore	Arts	3	Humanities	3
	Social Science	3	Phil/Psych Elective	3
	Natural Science w/Lab	3	INFOST 240	3
	INFOST 230	3	INFOST 310	3
	General Elective	3	General Elective	3
		15		15
			Sophomore Year Credits	30
Junior	Business Elective	3	Technical Arts Elective	3
	INFOST 340	3	INFOST 410	3
	INFOST 300+ Elective	3	INFOST 300+ Elective	3
	Humanities	3	General Elective	3
	General Elective	3	General Elective	3
		15		15
			Junior Year Credits	30
Senior	INFOST 440	3	INFOST 490	3
	INFOST 300+ Elective	3	INFOST 300+ Elective	3
	INFOST 300+ Elective	3	General Elective	3
	General Elective	3	General Elective	3
	General Elective	3	General Elective	3
		15		15
			Senior Year Credits	30
			Total Credits	120

\* This grid is meant to serve as an example of what courses a student may take to graduate in 4 years through the School of Information Studies with a Bachelors of Science in Information Science and Technology

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### *Bachelors of Science in Information Science and Technology*

#### Four Year Graduation Plan Example\*

	Fall Semester	Credits	Spring Semester	Credits
Junior	INFOST 110	3	INFOST 310	3
	INFOST 210	3	INFOST 340	3
	INFOST 230	3	GER or Cross Functional Elective	3
	INFOST 240	3	GER or Cross Functional Elective	3
	GER or Cross Functional Elective	3	GER or Cross Functional Elective	3
		15		15
Senior	INFOST 410	3	INFOST 490	3
	INFOST 440	3	GER or Cross Functional Elective	3
	GER or Cross Functional Elective	3	INFOST 300+ Elective	3
	INFOST 300+ Elective	3	INFOST 300+ Elective	3
	INFOST 300+ Elective	3	INFOST 300+ Elective	3
		15		15
Notes:			UWM Credits	60
	<i>General Education Requirement (GER)</i>		Associates Degree Transfer Credit	60
	<i>Summer courses also available</i>		Minimum Credits to Graduate	120

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