

Information Systems

School of Computer Sciences, College of Business and Technology



Program of Study

Like all of Western Illinois University's programs, studies in information systems are based on the broad educational foundation built during freshman and sophomore years. General education courses account for approximately one-third of the credit hours required for the degree and include courses in writing, speaking, the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, mathematics and health science.

The information systems (IS) program is both challenging and rewarding. The goal of the IS program is to prepare students to understand, organize and manage the flow of information, and to understand the technology that facilitates that flow. IS is considered a key area in an organization.

Students in the IS program will receive a well-rounded education that includes project management, computer systems, database management, Web-based systems, computer programming and more. For students with a special interest in security, WIU offers the IS program with a cyber security emphasis.

WIU's IS program will consist of the following core courses: Computer Science Principles (with the language JAVA), Data Structures, Network and Data Communication Concepts, Information Systems, Systems Data Analysis, Enterprise Database Management, Project Management and Enterprise Systems. Upon completion of the majority of the core classes, students advance into areas of Business Communication, Global Social Networks, Strategic Systems, Business Intelligence, Enterprise Architecture and Web Technologies Management.

A minor area of student is required for the IS major. The minor must be in a business area. A department advisor will help students select courses for a minor that will best complement students' special interests and career goals.

Faculty

The most important resource Western can provide to its students is its faculty. The IS faculty is well prepared to give students the education they want and deserve. Students will find senior professors working with freshmen and Ph.D. faculty from the finest national and international institutions dedicated to providing the best possible instruction in the classroom.

Scholarships

Detailed information on scholarships is available from the department advising office, (309) 298-1619; Western's Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or on the Web at wiu.edu/scholarship.

Honors

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15 percent of their high school graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. A comparable SAT score is acceptable. Transfer and current WIU students who wish to join the Honors College (including the Quad Cities

Honors Program) must have a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale based on 12 or more semester hours. Honors credit is given for honors coursework completed at other accredited institutions. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In information systems, honors students take courses for honors credit and are eligible to take honors seminars.



Student Activities

WIU advises students to become involved in other activities such as music, theatre, intramural sports, the student newspaper, student government and, of course, student organizations. The Computer Science Association (CSA) is where students will be welcomed by others with similar interests and where they can learn about the latest advances through field trips and special presentations. The Management Information Systems Association (MISA) offers its members the opportunity to network with students, professors and professionals in the IS field.

Computer Facilities

At Western, students will have access to a large IBM mainframe and SUN computers, as well as large laboratories of the latest microcomputers and networking equipment. The access to computing equipment and software is as good as any university in the United States. It is WIU's goal to give students experience on a variety of computing equipment and its associated software so they can judge which type of resources are best suited for the problems they encounter during their working career.

After College

The demand for IS specialists grows every year. WIU information systems graduates will be well prepared for a variety of career opportunities in many types of commercial, industrial, government, research and educational organization. Graduates will have job titles such as project manager, systems analyst, information specialist, information coordinator or chief information officer (CIO). Entry-level salaries range from \$42,000 to \$60,000 or more, depending upon area of specialty.

For More Information

For more details on the IS major, visit wiu.edu/cs.

Higher Values in Higher Education

Located in Macomb (population 20,000), with a campus in the Quad Cities (Moline, IL), Western offers a caring and supportive learning environment to more than 10,000 students in west-central Illinois. Western students have all the advantages of a large public university—strong faculty, state-of-the-art technology and facilities, and a wide range of academic and extracurricular opportunities—in an atmosphere free from distractions. Western offers a broad-based athletics program, sponsoring 19 NCAA Division I intercollegiate varsity sports. Football competes in the NCAA Division I Football Championship Subdivision through the Missouri Valley Football Conference; all other varsity sports compete at the Division I level through The Summit League. Western's presence in the Quad Cities spans more than 40 years, and that campus offers undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 1,400 students. The core values that are at the heart of the University are academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth and social responsibility.

Western's GradTrac and Cost Guarantee programs ensure that students can achieve their degrees within four years while paying a fixed rate for tuition, fees and room and board.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

wiu.edu/ computerscience

School of Computer Sciences

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