Department of Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics

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Mission Statement
The Department of Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics is committed to:

- educating students by creating an active, experiential learning environment that prepares them to apply knowledge of information systems, operations, business analytics and business for the betterment of organizations and society; and
- serving the academic community and business communities through appropriate research and service.

Objectives
Computer information systems (CIS) is offered as a major through the Department of Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics. This program prepares business students for careers as information systems professionals. The program of study focuses on the development and management of information systems in a business environment. Students develop the technical skills and organizational insights required to analyze, design, implement and administer information systems. The CIS curriculum includes hands-on projects, laboratory exercises, case analysis and business simulations to build strong technical and analytical skills, effective oral and written communication skills, and the ability to work independently and in team-oriented environments. Students are offered the opportunity to gain practical experience through internships and co-op programs. The department faculty endorses the program educational objectives listed below.

The CIS B.B.A. program will produce graduates with the ability to:

- understand the processes that support the delivery and management of information systems in a business environment;
- apply sound analysis and design methodologies toward creating technological solutions for the enhancement and improvement of business processes;
- implement system solutions using state of the art software development, database and telecommunications technologies;
- communicate effectively, in both oral and written form, in order to serve as liaisons between business-oriented end-users and technically-oriented computing specialists;
- work effectively in multi-disciplinary teams with the ability to manage themselves and their colleagues; and
- develop self-directed, lifelong learning skills.

Career Opportunities
Computer information systems professionals analyze business opportunities and problems, then design and build solutions using the power of information technologies. Students in the CIS program gain the business and technical skills that will prepare them to move quickly from technical to leadership roles within the organization.

Consulting
- Business Analyst
- Business Intelligence Specialist
- Computer Forensics Specialist
- IT Auditor
- IT Consultant
- Risk Analyst
- Security Consultant
- Systems Analyst
- Telecommunications Analyst

IT Management
- Application Development Manager
- Business Owner (IT Industry)
- Chief Information Officer
- Chief Security Officer
- Data Warehousing Manager
- Information Systems Manager
- Program Manager
- Project Manager

IT Professional Staff
- Computer Support Specialist
- Database Administrator
- Information Technology Trainer
- Network and Systems Administrator
- Project Manager
- Security Specialist
- Software Engineer
- Web Developer

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Co-curricular Activities and Organizations

The Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) is the oldest and most successful IT professional association. AITP is comprised of over 200 local chapters in the United States and Canada with over 13,000 professional and student members. The James Madison University Chapter of the AITP, founded in 1980, provides a valuable link to the business world by giving students exposure to career opportunities in the computer information systems field. JMU students are active participants in the Annual AITP National Collegiate Conference.

Accreditation

The B.B.A. in computer information systems is accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET)’s Computing Accreditation Commission.

Degree and Major Requirements

Bachelor of Business Administration in Computer Information Systems

The B.B.A. in computer information systems requires a minimum of 120 credit hours of undergraduate work. Sixty credit hours will typically be taken outside the College of Business. In counting the 60 credit hours of non-business courses, B.B.A. students may include all hours taken in General Education (usually 41), up to a total of nine hours in economics (GECON courses must be counted as economics) and three hours of COB 191, Business and Economic Statistics. The remaining hours will be taken from any department outside the College of Business. Students should carefully select these non-business electives to help them gain additional knowledge and expertise for their careers and personal lives. The credit hour requirements for each of the program components are listed below.

Degree Requirements

Required Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.B.A. core courses</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS major requirements</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education courses</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-business electives</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 120

1 Assumes that MATH 205 and GECON 201 are taken as General Education courses.
2 The General Education program contains a set of requirements each student must fulfill. The number of credit hours necessary to fulfill these requirements may vary.

Major Requirements

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIS 221. Principles of Programming</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS 301. Operating Systems and Server Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS 304. Enterprise Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS/CS 320. Computing and Telecommunications Networks</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS 330. Database Design and Application</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS 331. Intermediate Computer Programming</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS 454. Systems Analysis and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIS 484. Information Systems Development and Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Two computer information systems electives: 6

Students majoring in CIS are highly encouraged to complete an internship in computer information systems for non-academic credit (CIS 361).

Concentrations

Concentration in Cooperative Education

Dr. Tom Dillon, Coordinator

The cooperative education concentration in CIS and BSAN offers highly qualified undergraduate majors the opportunity to participate in a six- to eight-month professional experience with well-recognized industry leaders in information technology and operations. Students will be awarded 12 hours of academic credit that will substitute for two required courses in the CIS and BSAN curriculum and for six credits of special topics (CIS 498). Substitution for the two specific courses will be made based on the structure and context of the co-op experience and in cooperation with the co-op firm.

Students must demonstrate competency via examination in the two required courses selected in order to receive credit in those courses. Students who have at least a 3.0 grade point average, are majors in CIS and have fulfilled all of their COB core requirements (except COB 487, Strategic Management) are eligible to apply on a competitive basis through the CIS and BSAN office.

Students who want to participate in a co-op program must apply to both the CIS and BSAN program office and the participating firm at least three months in advance of the start of the co-op. Co-ops typically begin in January or May and last six to eight months. Course substitutions must be approved in conjunction with the co-op coordinator in the CIS and BSAN office and the co-op coordinator in the firm.

A program of study must be placed on file for each student who is accepted for a co-op prior to beginning the co-op experience. Students may participate in a co-op during their junior or senior years, but they are limited to one co-op. Students who want to participate in a co-op as postgraduates may do so as special students. These students will receive a certificate on successful completion of the co-op experience. Prerequisite: CIS majors with junior standing and a minimum 3.0 grade point average.

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Minor Requirements

Computer Information Systems Minor

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The minor in computer information systems is primarily structured to provide students in various disciplines on campus with the opportunity to study business-oriented information systems.

Admission to the CIS minor is based on a student’s performance in one course from each of the following seven competency areas:

- One introductory information-systems course (COB 204 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One introductory computer programming course (CIS 221, ISAT 252, CS 139 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One calculus course (MATH 205, MATH 231, MATH 235, GISAT 151 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One statistics course (COB 191, MATH 220 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One critical thinking course (student’s Cluster One critical thinking course or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One writing course (WRTC 103 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One quantitatively-oriented economics/business course (GECO 200, ECON 201, COB 241, COB 242, COB 291 or equivalent as determined by the department head)

Admission is based on weighted average of student’s performance in one course from each of the following seven competency areas:

- One introductory information-systems course (COB 204 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One introductory computer programming course (CIS 221, ISAT 252, CS 139 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One calculus course (MATH 205, MATH 231, MATH 235, GISAT 151 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One statistics course (COB 191, MATH 220 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One critical thinking course (student’s Cluster One critical thinking course or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One writing course (WRTC 103 or equivalent as determined by the department head)
- One quantitatively-oriented economics/business course (GECO 200, ECON 201, COB 241, COB 242, COB 291 or equivalent as determined by the department head)

Business Analytics Minor

Business analytics is a technical approach to analyzing problems and making business-related decisions. It uses statistical methods, management science techniques, and mathematical modeling to forecast the implications of various choices and identify the best alternatives. Business analytics focuses on the effective use of data and information to provide fact-based insights and drive positive business actions. The minor in business analytics prepares students to solve complex decision problems in a business environment with a combination of quantitative skills and hands-on expertise using current software applications. The program is open to any undergraduate with an interest in business analytics.

College of Business: Computer Information Systems and Business Analytics

Recommended Schedule for Majors

Computer information systems majors should follow the course schedule described here to complete the final two years of their program. It is possible to deviate from this program, but care must be taken to ensure that all course prerequisites are met.

First Two Years

Students normally take the 29-30 hour lower-division B.B.A. core curriculum along with many of the General Education curriculum. All lower-division core requirements must be completed before enrolling in the upper-division core courses. It is recommended that CIS 221. Principles of Programming be completed in the second semester of the second year.

Third Year

Fourth Year

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