WHAT IS A COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS B.B.A. MAJOR?

The computer information systems (CIS) degree program at JMU prepares students for professional careers that require both the business knowledge and the technical skills to help clients design, build and deliver competitive computer-based solutions. Computer and information systems managers play a vital role in the technological direction of their organizations and must stay abreast of the latest technology to ensure the organization does not lag behind its competitors. Students are prepared for careers in planning, analyzing, designing, implementing and managing information systems.

Our CIS graduates’ success in senior and mid-level management positions is built on a foundation of solid technical skills, integrative business knowledge and a professional network of loyal JMU alumni. We offer coursework in the following:

- Application Development
- Architecture, Networking and Security
- Business Intelligence
- Consulting

Technology Alliances for CIS Students:

- Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance (MSDNAA)
- Oracle Academic Alliance (OAA)
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux Academic Server Subscription

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The College of Business (COB) is one of 5% of business schools with AACSB international accreditation (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business).
- JMU’s CIS program was ranked #5 out of 357 schools nationwide by College Factual. This puts the school’s program in the Top 5% of all CIS programs in the U.S.
- The CIS 434 IT Consulting course involves 12 firms mentoring student teams, 2 companies teaching classes, and 4 companies judging student work. Over the last five years, the top 10 companies involved have hired 266 CIS graduates.
- College Factual ranked JMU’s CIS program in the Top 5% for Highest Paid Grads and #1 out of 12 colleges in the state of Virginia.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- Business Analyst
- Business Application Developer
- Chief Information Officer
- Computer Forensics Specialist
- Database Analyst
- IT Auditor
- IT Consultant
- IT Risk Advisor
- Network Manager
- Project Manager
- Systems Analyst
- Web Developer

‘The CIS program at JMU perfectly prepared me for the Systems Engineer program at Cisco. The courses not only taught me technical skills, but very important information gathering, consulting and project management skills that have differentiated me from my peers. The faculty go above and beyond to help the students achieve their dreams inside and outside the classroom.’

Allison Zeppuhar
James Madison University '17
Associate Systems Engineer,
Cisco Systems, Inc.

For details, visit: jmu.edu/cis
TWO MINORS

Business Analytics is a technical approach to analyzing problems and making business-related decisions. It uses statistical methods, machine learning, management science techniques and mathematical modeling to forecast the implications of various choices and identify the best alternatives. 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.

A minor in Computer Information Systems (CIS) will combine knowledge in the analysis and design of information systems with the understanding gained in a primary major. CIS is about computing in context. The context is business, and in particular the CIS pedagogical thrust emphasizes applications of information technology toward creating solutions for business-related problems. CIS is a technical field that requires mathematical and logical problem-solving ability, as well as the capacity to communicate effectively with a rigorous understanding of the business world. The minor is primarily structured to provide students in various disciplines with the opportunity to study business-oriented information systems.

CO-CURRICULAR ORGANIZATIONS

- Association for Information Systems (AIS)
- Women in Technology
- Beta Alpha Psi

COB ACCEPTANCE

All students admitted to JMU may declare a major in business and take lower-level business courses. To enroll in upper-level business courses, students must apply for acceptance to the College of Business. Students may submit an application for formal acceptance during the semester in which they are completing their final lower level Bachelor of Business Administration core courses.

LOWER BBA CORE COURSES

- COB 191 - Business Analytics
- COB 202 - Interpersonal Skills
- COB 204 - Computer Information Systems
- COB 241 - Financial Accounting
- COB 242 - Managerial Accounting
- COB 291 - Business Analytics 2
- ECON 200 - Macroeconomics
- ECON 201 - Microeconomics
- MATH 205 or 235 - Calculus

Minimum GPA: 2.7 average GPA in the lower B.B.A. core courses, excluding calculus and managerial accounting, is required. Only grades earned at JMU are included in the GPA calculation. Formal acceptance to the CoB permits students to enroll in COB 300.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS CLASS OF 2018 PROFILE

- Average Starting CIS/BSAN Salary: $66,906
- Average Starting CoB Salary: $57,837
- % CoB Jobs with Signing Bonus: 58%
- Average CoB Signing Bonus: $5,580

95% of CoB graduates are employed, in continuing education or engaged in other career related endeavors.

The Class of 2018 includes 800 students graduating August 2017, December 2017 and May 2018.

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