INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, BS

Information science, on which the Information Science and Technology program is based, is the study of the organization, storage, retrieval, dissemination, and use of information. Information technology (IT) is the collection of tools that make it possible to access and use information. Some graduates will go directly into jobs in business and industry sectors that rely heavily on information as a raw material or as a product. Other graduates may go on to graduate study in library and information science, information management, computer science, or telecommunications.

Career Opportunities

The Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Technology will give students a head start on any number of careers in the information industry:

- Information Architect
- Business Information Coordinator
- Network Manager
- IT Consultant
- Technology Trainer
- Multimedia Specialist
- Human-Computer Interface Designer
- Software/Systems Developer
- Technical Writer
- Database Developer
- Digital Library Specialist
- E-Commerce Web Administrator

IST Mission Statement

The Bachelor of Science in Information Science and Technology aims to prepare graduates who are information and technology literate, and who are able to effectively deal with the theory, organization, management, and implementation of information tools and associated technologies in a range of interdisciplinary environments. In addition, we will:

- **Educate students**, including those who might not traditionally consider an educational path in information and technology, especially women and minorities.
- **Open rewarding career opportunities** by allowing students to combine the IST program with another area of study.
- **Serve the state of Wisconsin** by way of education, community participation, and collaborative research partnerships.
- **Expand relationships** with industry to develop and advance research in Information Science and Technology and its applications in interdisciplinary environments.
- **Produce graduates** who will become leaders in the growing information economy of Wisconsin and the world.

Requirements

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Related Area of Study

Each student will work with his/her advisor to select general electives, including related areas of study that are appropriate to his/her career goals and to complete the 120 total credit requirements for the BSIST degree. Because of its interdisciplinary and cross-functional nature, the BSIST program allows students to apply the study of the concepts and tools of information science, information architecture, and information technology to one or more related areas of study. The related area of study is a set of courses outside of the BSIST major, normally a minor or certificate in another field of study, typically including 18-22 credits. In some cases, students may choose to study two related areas as part of their BSIST program.

**Related Areas of Study Selected List:** Computer Science; Health Care Administration; Art & Design; General Business; Library & Information Science; Philosophy; Global Studies; Intelligent Systems; Communication; Digital Arts & Culture; Mass Communication & Journalism

With the help of their advisor, students create and customize their own related area of study. This may be credit-bearing courses that students will take to prepare for certification examinations such as Microsoft certifications, CISCO, etc., or a customized selection of courses chosen by students that will sharpen their skills in one or more selected areas of study.

Completing the Degree

The BSIST degree includes a total of 120 credits as follows:
Select five additional Information Studies courses at the 300, 400, 500, or 600 level or equivalent coursework 15

Area IV: BSIST Cross-functional Electives
Select 15 credits

Area V: General Electives
Select 42 General Electives, including Associate Area(s) of Study 42

Total Credits 120

1 Learn more about the General Education Requirements (http://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext).

To continue and graduate in the BSIST program, each student must maintain a grade point average of at least 2.5 in the major and a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0 on all credits counted toward the degree.

Four-Year Graduation Guarantee
If a student satisfies all the obligations described in the Four-Year Graduation Guarantee, the student will be able to complete an undergraduate degree within four years. If the undergraduate degree completion in four years is delayed by the unavailability of courses, then UWM will relieve the student of the financial tuition burden for courses still required for graduation.

IST Core Competencies
The successful BSIST student will demonstrate understanding of the following:

- theoretical nature of information science and information technologies;
- organization and architecture of information based on understanding of the context, the content, and the user needs;
- user-centered information system and service development;
- information storage and retrieval systems;
- management of information, including the processes to enable the flow of information; and
- use of information and communication technology for managing and organizing information and content.

Admission to the BSIST Program
Standard UWM admission policies for freshmen and transfer students apply. Students may begin the program as freshmen or after completing several semesters as undeclared or other majors. Students may begin as transfer students from another accredited college or university or as students returning to get a second degree.

In addition to being available during standard class times, the BSIST degree is available fully online to serve students both on and off campus.

Entrance Guidelines
Students who meet the standard University admission requirements are admissible to the School of Information Studies. The same criteria for acceptance are applied to in-state and out-of-state students. For undergraduate admission requirements, see the Admission (http://catalog.uwm.edu/admission-costs/undergraduate-admission) section of this catalog.

Advising
Students accepted by UWM who declare an interest in the IST program will be assigned a SOIS advisor. Students are expected to work closely with their IST advisor to tailor a program of electives to best suit their interests and career goals. IST students may also wish to explore minors or certificates in related areas such as computer science or technical writing. For information on Academic Advising for IST majors, please visit the SOIS Academic Advising (http://uwm.edu/informationstudies/resources/advising) page.

Career Services
Whether you are a recent graduate just starting your career or an alumni looking for a change, the School of Information Studies (SOIS) is committed to supporting students and alumni throughout their careers. Visit our career resources (http://uwm.edu/informationstudies/resources/career) page for career related resources and join us throughout the year for career workshops and networking opportunities.

Honors in the Major
Honors in the major are granted to students who earn a GPA of 3.500 or above for courses in the major.

High Honors in the Major are granted to students who earn a GPA of 3.750 or above for courses in the major.

Honors in the School of Information Studies
Dean's Honor List
GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors Degree and Honors Degree with Thesis
Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (http://catalog.uwm.edu/opportunities-resources/honors-college) section of this site.

Commencement Honors
Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. In schools and colleges in which fewer than 15% of the traditional students have a 3.500 GPA, all-university honors will be awarded to approximately the top 15% of graduating students. A criterion GPA (not lower than 3.200) for this 15% will be calculated based on statistics from the previous comparable semester. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is not rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors
Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.