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University of Missouri-St. Louis

Management Information Systems

Why UMSL?

- We are the only public Business School in Missouri to offer a program ranked in the Top 20 by US News and World Report (our undergraduate International Business program was ranked number 10 nationally in August 2004).
- We are the only Business School in the Missouri system to have two UM Curators Professors on our faculty. (The Curators Professor designation is the highest academic rank in the University of Missouri system.)
- We are the largest AACSB-accredited Business school in the St. Louis region, and the only AACSB-accredited Business school to offer an online MBA. (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business – AACSB – is a third-party accrediting body. AACSB accreditation is a mark of academic excellence achieved by only about one-quarter of the Business Schools in the United States.)
- We are among the only 10 percent of the Business Schools in the country to carry AACSB accreditation for both our Business and Accounting programs.
- We have recently begun a collaboration with the Campus Career Services Office to provide résumé advice, job postings, and internship opportunities in the College of Business Career Services office (469 SSB).
- We offer a broad range of programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels – from Financial Planning and Logistics and Supply Chain Management, from Bachelor's degrees to graduate certificates, to Masters degrees, to the Ph.D. – our offerings are among the broadest in the region.
- Our faculty provide you with the best of both worlds – they are engaged in cutting-edge research in their disciplines, AND they are engaged in consulting and collaborations with some of the biggest corporations and not-for-profits in the St. Louis region. This expertise benefits you, the student, because faculty expertise is brought into the classroom every day.

Career Outlook

Management Information Systems (MIS) involves the application of information technology to organizational and managerial needs. MIS majors learn how to determine what information technology can contribute to an organization and how to develop and apply information technology-based business solutions. The strength of an MIS major lies in his/her ability to combine an understanding of business with the knowledge of information systems and technology to help organization compete more successfully or streamline current operations.

MIS professionals utilize their business-based backgrounds in working with managers and users to specify technology needs that benefit the organization. They analyze, design, develop, codify, implement, and manage state-of-the-art telecommunications, business, web-based and other computer-based information systems. Besides maintaining traditional transaction processing systems, today's MIS professionals are involved in exciting growth technologies, such as decision support, e-business, database development and data warehousing, development and use of client server systems, development of web-based technologies for electronic commerce and other business applications, and the design and management of telecommunications systems.

MIS graduates find challenging positions in rapidly expanding high technology fields and in business areas that use computer-based technology. Our graduates have pursued careers as telecommunications analysts, systems analysts and designers, electronic commerce analysts, web developers, consultants, database managers/administrators, and computer programmers. Alumni have achieved great success in many St. Louis corporations and consulting firms. Several individuals have started their own computer consulting firms that are prospering in the region.

General Information

The Faculty

Students have an opportunity to take classes from distinguished full-time faculty and from highly experienced practitioners from St. Louis's leading

CAREER

corporations. Among the full-time faculty, 90% have completed a Ph.D. from leading MIS institutions including: University of Pittsburgh, Northwestern University, Indiana University, University of Minnesota, Washington University, and University of Houston. In addition, they are all actively involved in state-of-the-art research and practice of MIS. Faculty specialties include: electronic commerce, web-based business technologies, insourcing/outsourcing, decision support and customer relationship management systems, telecommunications, CASE technology, MIS management, end-user computing, and international development of information systems. The faculty regularly publish in the leading MIS journals and consult at local and national companies.

This research background means that our faculty are state-of-the-art in their information systems/information technology expertise. This background allows faculty to bring leading edge knowledge and technologies into the classroom to provide students with the education not only to meet today's information technology needs and challenges, but also to meet those they will experience throughout their careers.

Accreditation

The Management Information Systems Area is a key component of the College of Business Administration at University of Missouri-St. Louis. The College of Business Administration was established in 1967, and was accredited by the AACSB International - the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, six years later – the shortest time on record for any school to receive accreditation of its business program. AACSB International is the only internationally recognized accrediting agency for business programs. Of some 1,200 business schools nationally, approximately 300 are accredited by AACSB International.

Mission

The Management Information Systems Area prepares students for technical and managerial careers incorporating leading edge technologies in public and private organizations. It builds on the core of the business program to prepare students for the social and technical design, development, and implementation of state-of-the-art computer-based telecommunications and internet-based systems. Our faculty strives to further the practice and understanding of MIS through its teaching, research, and service to the profession.

It accomplished this as an active component of the College of Business Administration. The mission of the College reflects the traditional academic activities of providing students with a high quality business education by extending and expanding existing levels of knowledge and understanding relating to the operation, administration, and social responsibilities of enterprises in both the private

and public sectors.

Student Services

The MIS Area offers opportunities to students to enrich themselves beyond the classroom experience.

- The MIS Mentoring Program links current students to alumni and other practitioners who are working in the St. Louis MIS community. The primary goal is to provide career planning development and mentoring to MIS students.
- The IS Programming Club (ISPC) sponsors speakers from the community on new and interesting technological developments in programming.
- The MIS Student Discussion Listserv acts as a mechanism for announcements about scholarships, employment opportunities and deadlines, and provides a medium for discussion among students.
- The Web Development Corps (WDC) allows students to get hands-on experience designing websites.

Facilities

Most MIS classes are held in the Computer Center Building which houses six advanced technology classrooms with computer systems at the instructor's station and at each student station, as well as advanced video/telecommunication projection systems. These classrooms provide student exposure to a variety of computing platforms, including IBM, Macintosh, and SUN (UNIX). Across campus, there are ten student computing labs available.

In addition, there is a dedicated laboratory available only for advanced MIS students. This lab provides MIS students access to state-of-the-art hardware and software. A flexible configuration encourages creative use of tools as well as out-of-class exploration of the Information Highway. MIS faculty partner with MIS departments in prominent St. Louis organizations to ensure students have access to leading edge software, including Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems, Computer-Aided Systems Engineering (CASE) products, Object-Oriented Analysis, Design and Programming tools, expert systems shells, decision support systems generators, and the entire Internet.

Advisory Board

UM-St. Louis benefits from the advice of representatives of some of the most successful MIS corporations in the St. Louis community through their participation in the MIS Board of Visitors. They provide a partnership in curriculum and research. Representatives of the following firms are included on the Board: Anheuser-Busch; Alliance BlueCross BlueShield; The Boeing Company; Catalyst Consulting Group; Electronic Data Systems; Ernst and

Young, LLP; General American Life Insurance Company; Impact Technologies; May Company; Monsanto; Rose International; and SBC, Inc.

Degree Requirements

B.S. in MIS

UM-St. Louis offers a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in MIS degree at the undergraduate level through the College of Business Administration. This program gives students a foundation in both the functional areas of business and in computing technologies that enables graduates to pursue both technical and managerial careers incorporating leading edge technologies in public and private organizations. The program provides a solid technical core, including courses in applications programming, database management systems, file management, systems analysis, and systems design. Elective courses include: telecommunications, end-user computing, decision support systems, MIS management, and object-oriented technologies. Most classes encourage group projects and practical application of ideas through student project work. In fact, the systems design class requires each MIS student to participate in a team project that requires the design, development, and documentation of a system for a real client.

The College of Business Administration admits students in their first year, though most MIS coursework is completed at the junior/senior level. Students pursuing a B.S. in MIS must complete the same core classes as students in the general business administration degree program. This includes completion of the general education requirements and required courses in each of the functional areas of business, including accounting, finance, marketing, management, operations management, and international business. Those interested in a particular functional area of business can also minor in those disciplines of accounting, finance, marketing, management, or operations management.

Beyond the business requirements, students pursuing the B.S. in MIS must complete 15 hours of required courses in MIS and six hours of elective MIS courses as outlined below.

Required MIS Courses

- Programming/File Structure Requirements: (6 hours with a choice of programming language/environment)
- Analysis and Design Requirements (6 hours)
- Database Requirements (3 hours)

A student must also complete two elective courses from a list which includes additional programming courses, the Management of Information Systems, the Management of Telecommunications, Decision Support & Expert

Systems, Management of End User Computing, Accounting Information Systems, and Computer Applications in Finance. A maximum of one Computer Science course from a list of approved courses may be taken. Seminars and Independent Studies are restricted to those offered by and approved by the Area faculty and approved by the Area Coordinator.

M.S. in MIS

The Master of Science (M.S.) in MIS is a 30-hour program that allows students with a background in MIS to specialize their coursework in MIS. All students must complete core MIS courses, including: Introduction to MIS, Applications Programming, and MIS Theory and Practice. Students can select one of three 15-hour specialization areas: Business Systems Development, Telecommunications Management, or Electronic Commerce. Alternatively, students may design their own specialization from a list of more than 20 elective courses. Students must also complete at least two additional MIS courses, which may include approved independent study with one of our faculty, a thesis, or an application project with industry.

Students who do not have a background in Business Administration or MIS must also complete requirements in mathematics, communications, and core business disciplines. These students completing the program will complete a survey mathematics course for business, business statistics, a managerial communications course, and at least five core business courses.

To be admitted to the M.S. in MIS program or a graduate certificate program (see below), students must have: (1) completed an accredited undergraduate degree program (in any subject) with a grade point average of at least 3.0; (2) submitted a balanced Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) score of at least 500; and (3) provided two letters of recommendation. Occasionally, students who do not satisfy these requirements may be admitted on a "restricted basis." To complete the M.S. program successfully, students must earn a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in the specified courses in less than six years.

Graduate Certificates in MIS

Students wanting to obtain the advanced knowledge available through graduate study, but not wanting to commit to complete a graduate degree program, will find their needs met by Graduate MIS Certificates. These 18-hour (6 courses) programs allow qualified graduate students the opportunity to pursue a defined course of advanced study in:

- Electronic Commerce
- Information Resource Management
- Information Systems Development
- Telecommunications Management

Completion of the prescribed six courses of study leads to a certificate granted by the University, but not to a degree. The coursework can often be transferred to a graduate business degree program.

Visit our Web Site

More information about degree programs and coursework, career opportunities, current events, and student services can be found on the MIS website:

<http://www.umsl.edu/business/mis/>

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