

New Program Proposal

Information Systems and Technology, BS/MA Program

The 2+3 Combined BS/MS program in Information Systems and Technology provides an opportunity for students of recognized academic ability and educational maturity to complete the requirements for both degrees in 5 years of full-time study. The combined program allows students to complete both the undergraduate and graduate degrees in Information Systems and Technology with a total of 135 credit hours instead of the typical 150 credit hours if the degrees were pursued separately. When all the requirements of the BS/MS program have been completed, students will be awarded both the BS and MS degrees.

Students can apply to the Chair of the Information Systems and Technology Department for admission to the 2+3 combined degree program during the semester they will complete 60 undergraduate credit hours. A cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher is required. Students must also meet with a Graduate Business Programs academic advisor.

Students will be admitted to the 2+3 program under **provisional status** until they have completed the department-specified 15 hours in the program with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. After completion of the provisional period, upon recommendation of the Department Chair, students can be granted **formal admission** into the 2+3 program, which involves admission to the Graduate School. After **formal admission**, the student will be classified as a graduate student, will pay graduate tuition for all courses, and must continue taking courses under graduate status until completion of the master's degree. Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher throughout the combined program.

Applicants are considered for **formal admission** into the 2+3 program, if they meet the following four criteria:

1. earned at least 90 hours as an undergraduate;
2. have a minimum GPA of 3.0 since being granted provisional status;
3. have submitted at least one letter of recommendation from an Information Systems and Technology faculty member; and
4. have met with a Graduate Business Programs academic advisor.

A total of 15 hours of graduate coursework may be counted both to meet the 120 credit hours required for the Bachelor's degree and to meet the requirements of the Master's degree. Students may resign from the 2+3 Program and apply for the Bachelor's degree. However, once the Bachelor's degree is awarded, the benefit of "double counting" courses will be lost. Any course used to meet a degree requirement for an undergraduate degree cannot be applied to a subsequent Master's degree.

Undergraduate BS in Information Systems and Technology students who choose to pursue the 2+3 BS/MS degree option will be required to take the following five graduate courses (15-credits). With permission (Graduate School Form C1), provisional 2+3 students may take up to 6 hours of 4000/5000/6000 level courses while still classified as an undergraduate. These 6 hours will be treated by the Graduate School as "under graduate status", and they may be counted toward a master's degree.

INFSYS 6806	Managerial Applications of Object-Oriented Technologies	3
INFSYS 6840	Information Systems Analysis	3
INFSYS 6845	Database Management Systems	3
INFSYS 6850	Information Systems Design	3
INFSYS elective		3
Total Hours		15

If a student has completed the undergraduate equivalent of a course, they may not receive graduate credit. Students may request to substitute other courses, subject to approval of the Department Chair. In addition, 2+3 students will complete INFSYS 5800 and the requirements for one of the Graduate Certificates listed below.

- Graduate Certificate in Business Intelligence
- Graduate Certificate in Enterprise Systems Development
- Graduate Certificate in Information Security Management and Auditing

Rationale

The 2+3 Combined BS/MS program in Information Systems and Technology will provide academically strong students the opportunity to complete both degrees in 5 years of full-time study. Students pursuing this streamlined pathway will gain academic breadth and depth, maturity, and learning opportunities to successfully enter the workforce.