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THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEGREE

The Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) provides an inter-disciplinary approach to preparing graduates with expertise in information systems. The program structure allows students to build elective choices based on their individual career goals. It is designed to meet the need for information systems leaders and innovators in a broad range of disciplines including business, education, government, healthcare, science, the arts, and others.

The MSIS program requires 36 semester credit hours of graduate course work (excluding any prerequisite requirements) in four component areas: information systems core, a support area of the student's choosing, information systems technical coursework, and an integrative capstone. The program provides a balance of practical application and theoretical concepts. It develops technical, organizational, and discipline-specific knowledge and skills.

The MSIS program enables professionals to create, plan, and implement information systems essential in today's business world. You'll find our graduates in successful businesses and organizations throughout the world.

Students may complete the program using a variety of course delivery options, including 100% online or hybrid options.

Applying for Admission

Admission into the MSIS program requires completion of all of the following steps:

1. The student applies to MSU Graduate Programs via the MSU Graduate web site or snail mail; an application form is available on the MSU Graduate web site.
2. The student submits all required application materials to the MSU Graduate Office. Students are advised to plan accordingly to meet the suggested deadlines found below. The international admission process to universities in the US can be especially time consuming. Summer submissions for application are not recommended because faculty members are often not available during the summer months. Admissions are considered continuously.
Spring semester : All application materials should be postmarked no later than September 1 for international candidates and November 1 for US candidates.
Fall semester : All application materials should be postmarked no later than February 1 for international candidates and April 1 for US candidates.
Summer sessions : All application materials should be postmarked no later than February 1 for international candidates and April 1 for US candidates.
3. After the graduate office verifies all application requirements are complete, the application materials are forwarded to the MSIS Director. The MSIS Director then forwards the materials for a recommendation by three Faculty MSIS Admissions Committee members. The final decision is communicated to the candidate via mail by both the Graduate Office and the College of Business.
4. As soon as possible after being admitted, the student should contact his/her advisor to design a program of study.

Other Admission Information

In order to be admitted to the MSIS program, students must meet the following criteria:

- General Admission to graduate study
- Minimum 2.75 GPA
- Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). If a student holds a Master's degree from an accredited institution, the GRE or GMAT is waived.
- A portfolio is required which contains (1) two letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the applicant's academic and/or work experience (2) a one-page statement outlining the student's career goals and objectives as related to the MSIS program; and (3) documentation that addresses achievement of each of the prerequisite competencies. It is recommended students have at least two years of work experience in Information Systems or in their chosen specialty before admission.
- Admission is determined by an admission index, computed as follows:
 - GRE Index** = (undergraduate GPA x 291) + (composite GRE score (verbal and quantitative)). *The GRE index score must equal at least 1600 for admission.* The minimum individual scores allowed for consideration of admission is 550 for the composite GRE (verbal and quantitative) and an undergraduate GPA of 2.75.
 - GMAT Index** = (undergraduate GPA x 200) + GMAT Score. *The GMAT Index must equal a minimum of 1000.*

Conditional admissions are not allowed; however, students may take courses under an "unclassified status".

International Students

International students who qualify for admission are required to take the English Language Institute Test of the University of Michigan or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) given by the Educational Testing Service. The TOEFL examination is given regularly in most foreign countries. For further information regarding these tests, the applicant should contact the US Counsel in the country of residence.

If the Michigan Test is taken, a minimum score of 82 is required. A TOEFL score of 525 is required for admission to the MSIS and MBA programs at MSU. Students scoring between 525 and 550 are required to complete ENG 100, and CMSP 108. International students who have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in the United States are exempt from this requirement.

Assistantships Available

A number of graduate assistantships are available across campus each year for students who have been admitted unconditionally to a graduate degree program. Assistantships provide a stipend of \$7000 per year (fall and spring semesters). Non-resident graduate assistants are not required to pay out of state tuition; all recipients must pay the regular Kentucky resident and incidental fees. A graduate assistant must be a full-time student who maintains a 3.0 grade point average and registers for at least nine graduate credit hours (600 level), but no more than 12 hours credit each semester. If a student fails to maintain a 3.0 g.p.a. they will be removed from their position. Twenty hours a week must be devoted to the duties of an assistantship. Graduate assistants are also eligible for a free residence hall room based on double occupancy in Fields Hall. If the student desires University housing outside of Fields Hall, the student is responsible for paying the difference in the two rates. Students must apply for reappointment each fall semester. If a student has been a graduate assistant for the academic year, they are eligible for in-state status if they wish to enroll in summer courses. Students are advised to apply well before the beginning of the academic semester. Contact the IS department chair, Dr. Elizabeth Regan, at e.regan@moreheadstate.edu, or the MBA Director, Keith Moore at k.moore@moreheadstate.edu for information about available assistantships. The Office of Graduate Programs reviews all credentials of the nominees and notifies the department and the candidates of their acceptance status. International students who accept graduate assistantships must apply for and receive a Social Security card before they can be paid.

Call MSU Toll Free—1-800-585-6871

MSU Quick Reference Departmental Directory

Accounting & Budgets

606-783-2019
Payment of Fees

Financial Aid

606-783-2011
Student Loans

Registrar

606-783-2008
Grades, Transcripts

Assistantship Info

www.moreheadstate.edu/graduate

Graduate Office

606-783-2039
Admissions

Student Telecommunications

606-783-9000
Web PIN, email

Distance Learning

606-783-2082
Technical Assistance

MSIS Program Info

606-783-2724 or
606-783-2174

University Bookstore

1-888-786-7305
Textbook Information

MSIS Program Curriculum

The MSIS program has five program components, outlined in this section. Requirements for program continuation are also explained in this section.

PREREQUISITE COMPONENT

Before acceptance into the program, students must display evidence of knowledge in information systems through work experience, certification, or academic course work. Evidence of knowledge in each of the following areas should be documented by the student in the application packet:

- Concepts of information systems in organizations
- Fundamental of PC hardware, software applications, and networking
- Undergraduate foundation in mathematics and statistics
- Expertise in one or more IS areas

MSIS Foundation Courses – The following MSU graduate courses are recommended to meet pre-requisites; however, students may also verify their background with their academic advisor based on their undergraduate coursework and/or work experience.

- CIS 615 Managing Information Technology
- CIS 634 Management of Telecommunications and Networking
- One mathematics and statistics course

MSIS Program Curriculum—Requirements for the Degree

IS CORE COMPONENT (12 CREDIT HOURS)

Competencies contained within the following coursework are required by all students in the program:

- BIS 640 Research Strategies for Information Systems
- CIS 640 Systems Planning and Implementation
- CIS 650 Innovation, Technology & Organizational Change
- CIS 636 Global Information Systems

SUPPORT AREA COMPONENT (6-9 CREDIT HOURS)

Based on individual career goals; students select 6-9 elective graduate credit hours from their career area, to be approved by their advisor.

For example, electives might be within or spread among areas such as: Government; Healthcare; Biology; Environmental Science; Business; Education; Industrial Education and Technology; The Arts; Music; Math; Communications; Geography; or other areas of professional interest to the student.

IS COMPONENT (12 CREDIT HOURS)

The student may select 12 credit electives from approved graduate information systems courses (the approved list is dynamically updated; check with your advisor or online for the latest list of approved courses):

- BIS 698 Advanced Supervised Field Experience
- CIS 625 Web Information Systems & Internet Technologies
- CIS 628 E-Business Application Programming
- CIS 635 Seminar in Information Systems
- CIS 638 Database Systems Design Implementation & Management
- CIS 642 Systems Security
- CIS 645 Customer Relationship Management Systems
- CIS 670 Directed Research

- +MBI 660 Data Warehousing and Data Mining (NKU)
- +MBI 675 Enterprise Workflow Design and Reengineering (NKU)
- +MBI 682 Information Security & Controls

+MBI courses offered through Northern Kentucky University

INTEGRATIVE COMPONENT (3-6 CREDIT HOURS)

Students may opt to complete the program by choosing one of the following integrative courses:

Thesis Option: BIS 699 Thesis (6 credit hours)

OR

Non-Thesis Option: CIS 690 IS Team Project (3 credit hours)

Students are allowed to complete both integrative courses; however, most students choose one option based on their career goal.

CIS 699 Selected Workshop Topics (i.e. Collaborative Technologies, Advanced Networking and Wireless, Knowledge Management, Advances in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Internet Programming, Systems Analysis and Design, Data Warehousing/Data Mining, Advanced Project Management, Expert Systems, HIPAA & IT Standards, Medical Informatics, Supply Chain Management, Human Computer Interaction, Strategic IS, Decision Support Systems, Cryptography, Digital Media, Advances in ABAP Programming Tools, Web Service Administration, Performance Improvement Technologies, and additional courses added as the program and IS field evolve.)

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the admissions process work?

It may take as little as two weeks for an application to be processed or as long as two months, depending upon submission of official transcripts, GRE/GMAT scores, portfolio, timing of the application, etc. The Graduate Office will notify the student in writing when admitted. You will also receive information from the MSIS Program Director/College of Business.

What is the course delivery mode?

The MSIS program is open to full and part-time students. Designed to meet the needs of working professionals as well as full-time graduate students, the program offers a flexible delivery format that combines online, hybrid, interactive TV at multiple sites and traditional campus classes. The program also offers flexible scheduling including full-semester, half-semester, Saturday, and evening seminars. Students can complete the program online if desired.

How many courses can I take per semester?

The minimum full-time load for a semester is nine credit hours; for each summer session, it is three credit hours. The maximum load is 15 credit hours for a semester and six credit hours for each summer session. Half-time status is four credit hours for the fall and spring semesters. A graduate assistant may not exceed 13 credit hours during a regular semester or four credit hours during a summer session.

How long does it take to complete the MSIS degree?

Full-time students can complete the MSIS degree in three semesters by taking 12 hours per semester or in four academic semesters by taking nine hours per semester, which roughly equals one and a half to two calendar years. Most of the students in MSU's MSIS program attend on a part-time basis and generally earn their degree in 3-4 years.

Can I earn the MSIS degree concurrently with another master's degree at MSU?

It is possible to earn more than one master's degree concurrently at MSU. For example, many of our students combine other master's degrees with the MSIS; the integrative nature of the MSIS program lends itself nicely to multiple degree candidates. Students may graduate with multiple degrees during the same semester at MSU. If you desire concurrent master's degrees from MSU, check with your advisor in each master's program and the Graduate Office to help you determine the total number of credit hours, course timing and program structure to ensure you are fulfilling all requirements for your desired MSU degrees.

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Dean's Office, Combs 214
Phone: 606-783-2607
d.lawson@moreheadstate.edu

Please remember to visit our website (www.moreheadstate.edu/msis) for more information about the MSIS program. Given the rapid changes in technology, our Web site is the most effective way to provide you with up-to-date information about what's happening in our program.

MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity, educational institution.