

Majoring in. . . .

Information Systems

Description of Information Systems

What is information systems?

Information systems refers to the effective integration of computing resources to support the operations, analysis, decision making, and planning functions in business organizations.

What do information systems majors study?

Students learn current technology (Java/J2EE, Oracle, Linux/UNIX and .NET), systems analysis and design, hardware and software technologies and familiarity with database and data communication systems.

What skills are important for an information systems major?

Information systems majors are critical thinkers who are able to listen, comprehend, and problem-solve.

Information systems majors should have:

- effective written and oral communication skills
- familiarity with computer concepts and applications
- above average quantitative skills
- fundamental knowledge of economics and social sciences

What else do information systems majors study?

Information systems students take a variety of liberal arts and professionally-oriented courses to develop knowledge and skills that can be applied in both personal and professional settings.

Liberal arts courses provide a background to strengthen: problem solving; written, oral, and interpersonal communication; quantitative, analytical, and reasoning skills. These skills are also considered very important for success in the workplace.

Course Requirements

General education: The School of Business requires 63 credit hours in the business foundation, including general education courses, in addition to the following requirements:

ENGL 101 & 200 Writing and Rhetoric Workshop
ECON 210-211 Principles of Economics
MGMT 171 Math Applications for Business
MGMT 212 Calculus for Business
MATH 211 Mathematical Structures
SPCH 121 or 321 Speech or Speech for Business
ACCT 203-204 Introduction to Accounting

Major courses: The advanced program includes 30 credits in the advanced business core and 27 credits in major courses.

The advanced business core includes:

- Business Statistics
- Business Information Systems
- Introduction to Marketing
- Organizational Behavior
- Productions/Operations Management
- Financial Management
- Legal Environment of Business
- Organizational Communication
- Managerial Economics
- Strategic Management

Majors are required to take the following:

- Database Systems
- Computer Hardware and Software

- Fundamentals of Data Communications
- Systems Analysis and Design

Concentration: Majors must choose one of three tracks for their remaining 9 credits:

- Application Development
- Network Management
- Business Analysis

Careers in Information Systems

The information systems major provides a good background for entry to any number of occupations. Some of these careers include:

- Applications Designer
- Computer Programmer
- Data Base Analyst
- Hardware or Software Sales Representative
- Information Analyst
- Information Systems Manager
- Network Administrator
- Programmer Analyst
- Systems Analyst
- Systems Consultant
- Technical Writer

Next Steps

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an information systems major at VCU, consider doing each of the following things. Check them off as you complete each step.

- Check out the VCU School of Business webpage.
- Take an introductory computer programming course.
- Read about the information systems major in the *Undergraduate Bulletin*.
- Review the information systems major graduation worksheet with an academic advisor.
- Talk to one or more upper-level information systems students about their major.
- Discuss the major with one or more information systems professors.
- Go to the Career Center to read about careers in information systems and explore internship opportunities.
- Go to the VCU bookstore and browse in the information systems textbook section.
- Check out the School of Business student organization website at www.bus.vcu.edu/usib/student_org.html and attend a meeting to obtain further information.
- Check out the Association for Information Systems website at www.aisnet.org for information on topics related to the study of information systems.

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