COLLEGE OF INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The College of Information Science and Technology (IS&T) was established on July 1, 1996 and represents the joint efforts of the University of Nebraska, the State of Nebraska and private industry to address the growing global need for knowledgeable professionals in the area of information technology.

The College of IS&T’s overarching philosophy is exemplified by the value statement, “No student will go unassisted or unchallenged.”

Our Vision

We will be a premier college with excellence in education, research, and service in the disciplines necessary to meet the needs of our students and the communities we serve.

Our Mission

We deliver student-focused education and perform cutting-edge research, preparing professionals and developing solutions that benefit the world. (We do cool stuff.)

In order to accomplish the College of IS&T’s vision and mission, the faculty and staff strive to achieve the following three strategic goals:

1. Keep students at the center of all College of IS&T efforts;
2. Strive to achieve the highest academic excellence; and
3. Actively lead and collaborate with academic, business, and community entities on various projects related to information science and technology.

The College of IS&T is focused on reaching the next level of information technology innovation through collaboration. This collaboration is fostered by the presence of the College in the Peter Kiewit Institute and is visible in the form of research, teaching, and service/outreach initiatives in partnership with our public and private stakeholders in the community, other academic units across the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the rest of the University of Nebraska system.

Accreditation Information

The College of IS&T’s degree programs in Computer Science and Management Information Systems have been accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, Inc., the recognized accreditor of college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. ABET accreditation demonstrates a program’s commitment to providing its students with a quality education.

More information about the College’s accreditation and educational objectives for specific ABET accredited programs in Computer Science and Management Information Systems can be found on the following web page: http://www.ist.unomaha.edu/?p=about/abetaccred.

All IS&T programs are also accredited as a part of UNO’s accreditation by the North Central Association/Higher Learning Commission.

Dean’s Office: 402-554-2380
Computer Science: 402-554-2423
Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis: 402-554-2380
School of Interdisciplinary Informatics: 402-554-4902
Undergraduate Advising: 402-554-3819
Graduate Advising: 402-554-3819

Program Website (http://www.ist.unomaha.edu)

General Information

Overview of Degree Programs

The College of IS&T at UNO offers a top-notch education as a means of producing highly competent information specialists for leading technology and engineering firms. Students will be prepared to enter the IT industry, apply technology in organizational environments, embrace life-long learning, and contribute to their communities. The College is organized into three major units that manage the degree programs: the Department of Computer Science (CS), the Department of Information Systems and Quantitative Analysis (ISQA), and the School of Interdisciplinary Informatics (Si2).

Degrees

The College of IS&T offers five undergraduate degree programs:

1. BS in Bioinformatics (BSBI)
2. BS in Computer Science (BSCS)
3. BS in Cybersecurity (BSIA)
4. BS in Information Technology Innovation (BITI)
5. BS in Management Information Systems (BIS)

Concentrations

The College of IS&T offers optional concentrations in Information Assurance and Internet Technologies which are designed to provide students within existing ISQA or CS degree programs an opportunity to add a more technical or applied dimension to their respective programs of study.

The ISQA Department offers additional optional concentrations to MIS degree-seeking students in the following areas: IT Audit and Control; i-Business Application Development and Management; and Global IT Leadership and Management.

The Computer Science Department offers an additional optional concentration in Game Programming and Design.

Certificates

The College of IS&T currently offers three undergraduate certificate options to all students enrolled in the College. Students who hold an associate’s degree from a community college in Information Technology or a related area may also enroll in one of these certificate programs:

1. Data Management Certificate
2. Systems Development Certificate
3. Information Technology Administration Certificate

Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate Track Programs (4+1 Track)

1. The ISQA Department offers an Integrated Undergraduate/Graduate Track (IUG) that enables students to complete the undergraduate BS degree in MIS and the graduate MS degree in MIS in five years.
2. The CS Department offers a similar IUG track that enables students to complete the undergraduate BS degree in CS and the MS graduate degree in CS in five years.
3. The College of IS&T’s School of Interdisciplinary Informatics also offers a similar IUG track for the Cybersecurity (CYBR) and IT Innovation (ITIN) programs. Students majoring in Cybersecurity can complete the undergraduate BS degree in CYBR and the MS in CYBR graduate degree in five years. (Students pursuing undergraduate degrees in MIS or CS with an Information Assurance concentration may also be eligible to pursue an MS in CYBR through this track option.) In addition, the College of IS&T has partnered with the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s College of Public Health to enable ITIN majors to complete the
BS in ITIN and an MS in Public Health with a concentration in Biostatistics in five years.

Honors Program
The College of Information Science and Technology actively supports the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s University Honors Program. For more information about the Honors Program visit: http://honors.unomaha.edu/.

The Honors Program office is located in Kayser Hall 208.
Phone: 402-554-2696

Admission Requirements for the College of IS&T
Application deadlines for the College of Information Science & Technology are:
August 1 for fall semester
December 1 for spring semester
June 1 for summer sessions

Students who have been admitted to the University may apply for entrance to the College of IS&T during initial registration by indicating their preference in the appropriate place on the University Application for Admission form. A minimum ACT score of 24 or an SAT score of 1110 (Verbal/Math) or a ranking in the top third of a graduating class is required for all incoming freshmen to be admitted to the College.

Transfer admission from other colleges or universities: Students may transfer into the College of Information Science & Technology from other institutions by completing the application process described above and meeting the minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 (on a 4.00 scale) with a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Maximum/Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 credit hours are required for a Bachelor of Science degree in the College of IS&T. A maximum enrollment of 17 credit hours is allowed per semester. For the summer term, a maximum enrollment of 12 credit hours is allowed.

Residency Requirement
Thirty of the last 36 credit hours required for the degree must be University of Nebraska at Omaha courses.

Transfer Credit Policy
A maximum of 64 credit hours are accepted from an accredited community college. A minimum of C- or higher grade is required to transfer credits toward College of IS&T degree programs with the exception of the following business courses, which require a C grade or better if transferred without ACCT 2020 or ECON 2220: ACCT 2010 and ECON 2200.

Unacceptable Credits
Courses such as ENGL 1050, ENGL 1090 and ENGL 1100 and orientation courses in other colleges or divisions may not be counted as part of the minimum 120 credit hours for the degree program. The course, College and Career Success (US 1010), can, however, be counted as elective credit if taken in the first 30 hours of the degree program. A maximum of four hours of physical education activities courses may be applied toward the general elective area.

Quality of Work
Students must obtain a grade of C- or better in each class for the purpose of meeting General Education, Departmental, and College requirements. A grade of C or better is required to meet the prerequisite requirement for business courses. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 is required for the College of Information Science & Technology.

Incompletes
To receive an “incomplete,” students must contact their instructor prior to the end of the semester, request a grade of incomplete, and make arrangements to complete the work. The rules which govern the issuance of an incomplete are as follows:

1. The grade “I” is used by an instructor at the end of a semester or summer session to designate incomplete work in a course. It is given when a student, due to circumstances such as illness, military service, hardship or death in the immediate family, is unable to complete the requirements of the course in the term in which the student is registered for credit. Incompletes will only be given if the student has already substantially completed the major requirements of the course.
2. Each instructor will judge each situation. The instructor will also indicate by a departmental record with a copy to the student how the incomplete is to be removed. If the instructor is at the University at the time of removal, he/she will supervise the makeup work and report the permanent grade.
3. In the event the instructor is not available at the time of the student’s application for removal of an incomplete, the department chairperson will supervise the removal of the incomplete and turn in the permanent grade for the student.
4. A student shall have no longer than the end of the next regular semester following receipt of the “I” to remove the incomplete. After that time, the “I” will automatically become a “W,” or such other grade specified by the instructor depending on the amount and quality of the coursework previously completed. Exceptions to this rule will be permitted if initiated by the student and approved by the instructor, department chairperson and dean. Exceptions to this rule will be made only in response to circumstances over which the student has no control, and these must be detailed.
5. In registering for courses, students receiving one or more “I” grades from the previous semester should take into account the time needed to complete the required work and plan their schedules accordingly.

Repeating Courses
A repeated course may count only once for graduation. Exceptions are internships, independent studies, physical education activity courses, and special topic courses.

For students repeating any Computer Science course (CSCI 1xxx-4xxx):
1. A formal warning shall be conveyed to the student upon failing a course for the second time.
2. The student shall not be allowed to enroll in the course after the third failure.

Attendance Policy for Computer Science Courses
1. A formal warning shall be conveyed to the student upon the second instance (first instance for summer session) of unexcused absence from a class.
2. The student shall be withdrawn from the class after the third instance (second instance for summer session) of unexcused absence from the class.

Grade Appeal Policy
Students who wish to appeal a grade which they feel was erroneously given shall first discuss the matter with the instructor and/or department chairperson. If a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached, the student may submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean within 30 days of receipt of the grade report from the Registrar’s Office. The Academic Evaluation Committee of the College of Information Science & Technology will hold a hearing to make a final determination based on the facts presented.
Probation and Suspension

Probation

Probation constitutes a period of formal warning that the student is doing unsatisfactory work. A student whose cumulative grade point average is below 2.0 after having attempted six or more semester hours of study will be placed on probation. Probationary status will remain in effect as long as the student’s cumulative grade point average (GPA) remains below 2.0. No student will be allowed to enroll for any course on a Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit basis while on probation.

The student is encouraged to use every opportunity during time on probation to seek counsel and guidance from various university agencies which have been established to offer assistance in study and academic planning. For information on such services, the student should consult with his or her academic advisor or counselor.

Suspension

Starting with the fall 2005 semester, students will no longer be suspended at the end of the fall term; students will only be suspended at the end of the spring term. This rule applies to all UNO colleges, including University Division and all University of Nebraska-Lincoln Omaha-based programs in the Colleges of Architecture, Agriculture, Education and Human Resources, and Engineering.

Students who are on probation will be suspended at the end of the spring semester when their semester grade point average is lower than 2.0 and their cumulative grade point average (GPA) falls below the following standards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours Attempted</th>
<th>Cumulative GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-12</td>
<td>No Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-45</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 or more</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Academic suspension under these conditions will be automatic and will be for a minimum period of one year.

Students will be notified by the College of Information Science & Technology and given instructions on how to appeal. If the appeal is denied, the student shall be disenrolled and tuition shall be refunded.

Academic Amnesty

A student who did not perform well during one or two consecutive semesters (not necessarily the first and second ones) at UNO, UNL or UNK may petition the College of IS&T for academic amnesty to have either one or both semesters’ grades removed from his or her cumulative grade point average (GPA). In order to petition for academic amnesty, a student must have completed 24 semester hours (12 semester hours if the student is part time) of coursework at UNO, UNL, or UNK with a GPA of 2.5 or better subsequent to the semester or semesters in question. In addition, a minimum of four years are required between the semester(s) to be deleted and the petition for academic amnesty.

If the Academic Amnesty Committee agrees, those courses that were completed with a C- or better during the academic amnesty semester or semesters may still count toward graduation. Students who are granted academic amnesty may not graduate with academic honors.

Academic Advising

The College of IS&T’s Undergraduate Academic Advising office recognizes that students have individual academic, career and sometimes personal needs which may require special assistance. Below are some guidelines on how academic advisors help ensure success. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their advisor regularly.

What do IS&T academic advisors do?

IS&T academic advisors explain the rules and requirements of the College of IS&T programs and help students understand how they apply to individual situations. The advisors prepare each student record so that students meet all the requirements for the degree in the final audit process. In addition, advisors provide advice about what degree-program specific courses and scheduling will be most helpful. They can also help with difficult situations such as concerns about grades, course instruction, time management, scheduling conflicts, or other academic issues.

When should I see an academic advisor?

During freshman and sophomore year, students in the College of IS&T are required to meet with an advisor every semester. After that, though not required, students are strongly encouraged to continue to meet with an advisor at least once per semester to make sure that all records are up-to-date and to catch any problems early. Seniors are required to schedule a meeting for a senior check when they reach 91 earned hours.

Senior Check

When students reach 91 hours of completed coursework, they must request a senior check to be done by an academic advisor. Assuming satisfactory completion of all approved courses, this process will assure the student’s graduation date. Should this procedure not be followed, responsibility for meeting graduation requirements falls on the student and may prevent graduation on the anticipated date.

Application for Degree

Each student who expects to receive a diploma must file an Application for Degree. The Application for Degree is available online by logging in to Mavlink. Announcements about deadline dates are also posted via Mavlink. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Registrar’s Office of his/her graduation plans, the manner in which requirements are to be completed, and to provide a diploma mailing address. Failure to meet these stipulations may necessitate postponement of graduation until the following semester.

Other Information Relevant to the College of IS&T

Catalog Choice

A student registering in the College of IS&T for the first time will work with an advisor to develop a matriculation form based on the current online catalog. The matriculation form is used to establish a plan of study for students in the College and will be the primary source for a student’s most current academic plan, provided the student has continuous enrollment. It is the responsibility of each student admitted to the College of Information Science & Technology to become familiar with the procedures and regulations in the undergraduate catalog as well as the program brochure for his or her degree program. The College of Information Science & Technology reserves the right, after due notice during the course of a student’s work toward a degree, to institute and make effective any new rules which may be necessary for the general good of the College and to substitute courses currently offered for those no longer offered.