



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Information Systems

Department of Information Systems & Decision Sciences, College of Business & Technology

## Program of Study

A degree in Information Systems (IS) prepares students to understand, organize, and manage the flow of information in business. IS has been identified as a key area of an organization along with accounting, finance, human resources, manufacturing, and marketing.

To increase their company's global competitiveness, information managers use *business and technical* skills to assist both the producers and the users of information. IS specialists are utilized in a variety of industries such as retail, law enforcement, hospitality, manufacturing, supply chain management, agriculture, and health care, among others.

The IS degree provides a well-rounded education in project management, computer systems, database systems, Web-based systems, information technology (IT) infrastructure, and a basic knowledge of computer programming languages.

Students can choose from two options in IS. Both options include the common business core courses required of all business majors.

### 1. Healthcare IT-Systems option

This option is concerned with the efficient use of information technology in the healthcare industry. The focus is on the electronic medical record (EMR) and its impact on healthcare delivery. Courses include Healthcare/Medical Informatics, U.S. Healthcare Policies, and Data Management.

This field is relatively new and continues to grow as the use of databases and other resources increase to enhance patient treatment. In addition, the new Healthcare-IT initiative in the U.S. puts significant importance on the *acquisition, storage, and use* of information in the EMR.

### 2. IT-Systems option

This option focuses on the management of computerized information systems in any company or corporation. These graduates are trained for a wide variety of careers in both manufacturing and service organizations. Courses include Data Mining, Web IT-Systems, and Enterprise/Strategic Information Systems.

## Faculty

Members of the tenured faculty hold doctoral degrees from leading national and international educational institutions. The department's relatively low student-teacher ratio means that you will have the personal attention you need for learning at its best. Several faculty members have received the College of Business and Technology's Outstanding Teacher Award.

## Honors in ISDS

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours (SH) and up to 59 SH of undergraduate courses are admitted with a GPA of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 SH or more. To find out more, visit [wiu.edu/Honors](http://wiu.edu/Honors).

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. Outstanding Senior and Outstanding Scholar Awards are given to IS seniors annually.

### Student Activities

As an IS major, you will be encouraged to join our student group, MISA ([wiu.edu/users/mimisa](http://wiu.edu/users/mimisa)). MISA gives IS majors, minors, and graduate students the opportunity to experience real-world applications through guest speakers and corporate tours. Students will also be given the opportunity to network with IS professionals from local and national businesses.



### Special Opportunities

IS students can learn from a variety of techniques, including computer simulations, case studies, and field trips. As part of the curriculum, students are involved in a class project in which real-world information systems are developed for local businesses.

### After College

#### Healthcare IT-Systems

The U.S. Department of Labor has projected that employment of medical records and health information technicians will increase **18%** through 2016. Federal regulations, the growth of managed care, an increasing demand for detailed patient records, and the increase in paperwork sent to insurance companies are factors that will contribute to new job growth in this industry.

Individuals with the **Healthcare-IT option** may gain employment in a variety of areas. Some job titles include the following:

- Health Information Project Manager
- Health Information Systems Manager
- Health Information Specialist
- Patient Information Coordinator

#### IT-Systems

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employment of computer and IS managers is expected to grow **16%** through 2016. Demand for workers and managers will continue to increase because of new IT applications.

The outlook for computer IS managers remains strong. Firms will continue to install systems that are more complex in order to remain competitive. Having an effective and well-managed IT system is essential to every organization.

Individuals with the **IT-Systems option** may gain employment in a variety of areas. Some job titles include the following:

- Project Manager
- Database Management Consultant
- Systems Analyst
- Chief Information Officer (CIO)

Earnings for computer and information systems managers vary by area of specialty. However, *entry-level salaries* for both options range from \$42,000 to \$60,000.

### For More Information

To obtain more information about Western Illinois University, visit our homepage located at [wiu.edu](http://wiu.edu). For more details on the Information Systems major, visit [wiu.edu/isds](http://wiu.edu/isds).

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