

Master of Science in Business Administration

INFORMATION SYSTEMS (Updated June 2008)

Career Directions

Courses offered in the field of Information Systems are designed to prepare the graduate student for the technical administration and managerial positions with relatively intensive technical computer-based information systems. Specific job orientation can lead to the design, implementation, and management of information systems or to the utilization of sophisticated management information systems.

Curriculum

The curriculum emphasizes the analysis, design, and management of computer information systems. The major concentration includes courses addressing programming concepts, database, systems development, networks, decision-support systems, e-commerce, computer security, and management of information systems.

Advising

The advisor for the MSBA Information Systems program is Professor Alexis Koster (office: SS 3112). Your advisor may or may not be available for advising during university breaks and summer months. You are welcome to send him questions via email address: Alexis.Koster@sdsu.edu. He is the best source of information concerning your selection of courses. If you need to select your schedule before you are able to speak to your advisor, please follow the following instructions.

Program Structure

Program Prerequisites: Students must have recently completed each of the following program prerequisite courses.

Financial Accounting Fundamentals	BA 650 or ACCTG 201
Managerial Economics	BA 653 or FIN 321
Statistical Analysis	BA 652 or IDS 301
Financial Management I	BA 665 or FIN 323
Operations Management	BA 662 or IDS 302
Organizational Behavior	BA 651 or MGT 350
Marketing	BA 655 or MKTG 370
Information Technology for Business	IDS 609

The prerequisite will be considered as having been met if you completed an equivalent course within the past 5 years at an institution accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and you earned a grade of B or higher in that course. Courses completed at non-AACSB accredited institutions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Graduate Programs Office will inform you of the program prerequisites you need to complete. You should register for these courses first.

Courses in the Program

The program itself (beyond the prerequisites) consists of 27 units (9 classes), to which you must add 3 units for either thesis (BA 799) or Directed Readings (IDS 790). These 27 units must include 24 units (8 classes) in Information Systems (IS). Six units of Computer Science classes may be substituted for IS classes with your advisor's approval. All classes must be numbered 500 or above (with a maximum of 9 units at the 500 level). **Note that IDS classes numbered above 700 are not part of the Information Systems concentration.**

Required Classes Among the 24 units of Information System classes, you are required to take the following six Information System classes:

- IDS 680 Hardware and Software
- IDS 686 Database Systems
- IDS 687 Data Communication and Computer Networks
- IDS 688 Info Systems in Organizations
- IDS 695 Systems Development I (prerequisite for IDS 697)
- IDS 697 Systems Development II (prerequisite: IDS 695)

Elective classes The electives for the Information System program are: (you must take at least 2 of the following)

- IDS 515 Advanced programming languages (typically C; prerequisite for IDS 520 and IDS 683)
- IDS 520 Java for Business Applications (prerequisite: basic Knowledge of C, such as IDS 515) (prior to 2000, IDS 520 was IDS 596)
- IDS 620 E-commerce (prerequisite: IDS 610, not acceptable on the program, can be waived by the IDS 620 instructor)
- IDS 630 E-commerce(prerequisite: IDS 620)
- IDS 683 Programming Structures with C++ (prerequisite: knowledge of the C language, such as IDS 515)
- IDS 691 Decision Support Systems
- IDS 696 Special Topics (when offered in the IS area). Currently, a Computer Security class is offered under the IDS 696 name.
- IDS 798 Independent Studies (when about IS topics). As part of your program, you may take a maximum of 6 units of IDS 798 (Independent Studies) as electives, also with your advisor's approval.
- **NOTE THAT IDS 610 may not be taken as part of the program.** It is a prerequisite to IDS 620, but it could be waived with the instructor's permission.

The one "free" elective class may be in Information Systems, other business disciplines, or outside the school of Business Administration-but closely related to Information Systems or Business. It must be chosen with your advisor's approval.

Class Schedule

Currently, IDS graduate classes are offered only once a year as follows, subject to change (please always verify the class schedule)

Fall: IDS 515, IDS 620, IDS 686, IDS 688, IDS 691, IDS 695

Spring: IDS 520, IDS 610, IDS 630, IDS 680, IDS 687, IDS 697, course on Computer Security (currently under IDS 696-special topics)

IDS 683 is not scheduled in 2005-2006.

If IDS 609 has not been waived, take it ASAP (Summer if possible, otherwise Fall), since it is a prerequisite to the IDS program. When IDS 609 is not offered, IDS 180 is an acceptable substitute. Take IDS 695 ASAP (Fall) since it is required and a prerequisite to IDS 697, also required. If you intend to take IDS 520 or IDS 683 as electives, then take IDS 515 (also an elective) in a preceding Fall, since it is a prerequisite to both IDS 520 and IDS 683. If you plan to take IDS 630 (an elective), then take IDS 620 (an elective) in a preceding Fall, since IDS 620 is a prerequisite to IDS 630.

Non-Business classes: you may take only two classes outside the College of Business Administration. However, the classes should be closely related to information systems or business. If they are in Computer Science, they may be counted towards the required or elective Information Systems classes with your advisor's approval.

Substitutions

Substitutions for the 7 required and 2 elective Information Systems classes may be granted by your advisor, based on your previous academic record and work experience. Substitutions may exceptionally be granted for scheduling reasons, in particular if a required class (or its accepted substitute) is not taught during a full academic year, including summer. All substitutions must be made with your faculty advisor's prior approval.

Summary

Program Prerequisites: The 21 units of the MBA core and IDS 609. All may be waived and/or substituted by the advisor.

Required: 18 units of IS classes: IDS 680, 686, 687, 688, 695, and 697. (Substitutions are possible.)
3 units of either IDS 790 (Directed Readings) or BA 799 (Thesis)

Electives: 6 units of IS classes (IDS 609 and IDS 610 not acceptable as electives)
3 "free" units (business, IS or non-IS. MBA core classes are not acceptable)

Your official program must consist of 30 graduate-level course units (may not include IDS 609 and IDS 610)

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