

MASTER OF SCIENCE

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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The Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) is a study of the hardware and software mechanisms used to implement modern information systems. It includes coverage of local-area networks, databases, operating systems, the Internet, the web, and IT management. The student is offered two specialty programs: one in Computer-Based Instructional Technology (CBIT), and one in Information Technology (IT). Each program is built around a common core of three important technologies: networking, web development, database design and implementation.

The Computer-Based Instructional Technology (CBIT) specialty program enables a student to complete the degree through course-work directed to showing the application of computing technology to instruction.

The Information Technology (IT) specialty program is intended for students pursuing a career in technical support for business information systems. The focus is on an integrated study of networking, databases, and the web.

Unconditional Admission

Students are eligible to apply for unconditional admission to the Master of Science degree program in Information Technology if they meet all of the following requirements:

1. Applicants must meet the admission requirements for Graduate College.
2. Applicants must have a background comparable to COMS 1003 and COMS 1403 (see undergraduate catalog for course descriptions), which includes familiarity with terminology and concepts related to word processing, spreadsheets, and databases. This background may be demonstrated by previous coursework, work experience, or by taking a test administered by the MSIT Graduate Committee.
3. Applicants have successfully completed one math course beyond college algebra.
4. Applicants for the CBIT program have successfully completed one semester of computer programming comparable to COMS 2104. Applicants for the IT program have successfully completed two semesters of computer programming courses comparable to COMS 2104 and COMS 2203.
5. Applicants must submit recent (within the last 5 years), acceptable scores (to be determined by the faculty) of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) to the Graduate College.

Conditional Admission

Applicants who fail to satisfy the grade point requirements for unconditional admission or who do not satisfy requirements 2-5 above may be admitted conditionally by the MSIT Graduate Committee to earn a maximum of twelve (12) hours of graduate credit. Conditional admission may require taking one or more undergraduate and/or graduate courses to remove those conditions. Any such courses must be completed with a grade of "B" or better. In addition, if the student was admitted conditionally due to grade point average, the student must earn a 3.0 or better cumulative grade point average in all graduate courses taken for the program by the end of the semester in which the twelfth (12) graduate hours is completed.

Academic Advisors

The MSIT Graduate Committee will assign a faculty advisor to each student admitted to the MSIT degree program. The advisor will assist the student in the design of a curriculum of study that leads to the fulfillment of degree requirements. Additionally,

the academic advisor and the Graduate College will monitor the student's progress. It remains, however, the student's responsibility to understand and to satisfy all degree requirements.

Admission to Candidacy

Students who have been granted conditional admission are eligible for admission to candidacy for the degree after the completion of all deficiency requirements and twelve graduate hours with a 3.00 grade point average or better and no grade lower than "C". Students who have been granted unconditional admission are eligible for admission to candidacy upon completion of twelve hours with a 3.00 grade point average or higher and no grade lower than "C". Students who do not submit to the MSIT program director an "Application for Admission to Candidacy" prior to the end of the semester in which the student becomes eligible will not be allowed to register for subsequent graduate classes.

Degree Requirements

1. The completion of 36 hours of graduate work of which include 18 semester hours in MSIT core requirements plus requirements for the Computer-Based Instructional Technology (CBIT) or the Informational Technology (IT) specialty program. A minimum of 18 of the total hours must be at the 6000 level.

MSIT Core Requirements (18 hours)

- INFT 5203 Database Systems
- INFT 5303 Developing and Administering Web Sites
- INFT 5703 Computer Networks
- INFT 5700 Computer Networks Lab

Plus completion of 9 semester hours from the following courses:

- INFT 5103 Software Development
- INFT 5503 The UNIX Operating System
- INFT 5403 Introduction to Information Technology and Systems
- INFT 5413 Computer Systems and Architecture

Computer-Based Instructional Technology (CBIT) Requirements (18 hours)

- EDFD 6003 Educational Research
- EDMD 6133 Production of Instructional Materials
- EDMD 6313 Instructional Design and Product Development
- EDFD 6313 Principles of Curriculum Development
- EDMD 6513 Computer Based Instruction
- INFT 3 hours elective (6000 level)

Plus successful completion of written comprehensive examinations.

Information Technology (IT) Requirements (18 hours)

Completion of nine semester hours of the following courses and one of the three options

- INFT 6203 Database Development and Administration
- INFT 6303 Design of Web-based Information Systems
- INFT 6403 Information Systems Analysis and Design
- INFT 6703 Heterogeneous Networks
- INFT 6700 Heterogeneous Networks Lab

Option I (Internship):

- 3-8 hours of INFT 6000 level elective courses (depending on the internship)
- 1-6 hours internship (INFT 6991-3)

Option II (Thesis):

- 3 hours of INFT 6000-level elective courses
- 6 hours Thesis Research (INFT 6973 and INFT 6983)
- 2. A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.00 in all graduate courses completed at Arkansas Tech University with a maximum of 6 hours of "C" grades.
- 3. A minimum of 27 hours of graduate course work completed at Arkansas Tech University.
- 4. Completion of all degree requirements within **four years** of admission into the program.

Option III (Comprehensive Examinations):

- 9 hours of INFT 6000-level elective courses
- The successful completion of written comprehensive examinations.

**Special Conditions of
Graduate Credit
Graduate Credit Taken
Prior to Admission to
Arkansas Tech University**

A maximum of **nine** semester hours of graduate credit with a grade point average of "B" or better may be transferred from an accredited graduate school if deemed appropriate to the MSIT Graduate Committee, the Director of the MSIT program, and the Dean of Graduate College. Students must send a written request through the MSIT Graduate Committee and program director to petition an acceptance of the transfer credit prior to requesting admission to candidacy to the graduate program. Graduate credit earned six years prior to the completion date of all degree requirements may not be applied toward the degree without the approval of the MSIT program director and the Dean of Graduate College. Credits earned by correspondence courses or for remedial purposes will not apply toward the graduate degree. No undergraduate course may be repeated for graduate credit.

**Graduate Credit Taken
After Admission to
Arkansas Tech University**

If after admission to graduate study, a student wishes to take a course at another institution to count toward degree requirements at Arkansas Tech University, the student must (in advance of enrollment) obtain written approval from the MSIT program director and the Dean of Graduate College.