INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY, A.S. (BERKS)

Begin Campus: Berks
End Campus: Berks

Program Description

Not all options are available at every campus. Contact the campus you are interested in attending to determine which options are offered.

This associate degree major is structured to prepare graduates for immediate and continuing employment opportunities in the broad disciplines of information science and technology. This includes positions such as application programmers, associate systems designers, network managers, web designers and administrators, or information systems support specialists. Specifically, the major is designed to ensure a thorough knowledge of information systems and includes extensive practice using contemporary technologies in the creation, organization, storage, analysis, evaluation, communication, and transmission of information. The major fosters communications, interpersonal, and group interaction skills through appropriate collaborative and active learning projects and experiences. Technical material covers the structure of database systems, web and multimedia systems, and considerations in the design of information systems. Team projects in most courses, a required internship, and a second-year capstone experience provide additional, focused venues for involving students in the cutting-edge issues and technologies in the field.

The Associate of Science in IST degree will be offered at multiple campuses within the Penn State system of colleges and campuses. Note that not all options will be available at all locations.

Baccalaureate Option

This option provides maximum articulation with the baccalaureate degree. Students who complete this option will meet all lower division requirements for the baccalaureate degree. This is not the case with the remaining options, although the degree of articulation is quite high for all associate degree options.

Generalized Business Option

This option enables students to specialize in the general business areas of accounting, marketing, and management.

Individualized Option

This option enables students to work closely with an adviser to develop a plan of study that meets the dual objectives of allowing a flexible academic program and providing breadth of technical specialization. An example would be a program where a student would take some of the courses listed in the Web Administration option and the remainder in the Software option.

Software Option

This option prepares graduates for entry-level programming support positions in industry. Students take courses in Web programming, database programming, and other contemporary programming environments.

Networking Option

This option prepares graduates for positions as entry-level computer network administrators. Students take courses in personal computer hardware, networking essentials, and network administration.

Telecommunications Option

This option prepares graduates for entry-level positions in the telecommunications industry. Students take courses in voice and data communications, protocols, networks, and wireless systems.

Entrance to Major

Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to change to this Associate degree after admission to the University.

Degree Requirements

For the Associate in Science degree in Information Sciences and Technology, a minimum of 60 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>4-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>44-46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Education

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/associate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)
- Quantification (GQ): 3 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 3 credits

Knowledge Domains
- Arts (GA): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 3 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 3 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 3 credits

Foundations or Knowledge Domains
- A General Education course selected from GWS, GQ, GN, GA, GH, or GS, and may include Integrative Studies (Inter-domain or Linked) courses: 3 credits

The keystone symbol appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

9-12 of these 21 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.
University Degree Requirements

Cultures Requirement
3 credits of United States (US) or International (IL) cultures coursework are required and may satisfy other requirements.

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 60 degree credits must be earned for a associates degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 60 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 9-12 credits of General Education courses, i.e., ALL options: 3 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GWS courses. The Baccalaureate Option also includes 3 credits of GS courses to equal a total of 12 credits that double count; the General Business Option also includes 3 credits of GQ courses; 6 credits of GWS courses. The Baccalaureate Option (17 credits)

Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better

Cultures Requirement
3 credits required by Senate Policy 82-44.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44). Select 15 credits in consultation with the adviser of the following:

1. ACCTG 151 Introductory Financial Accounting I
2. ACCTG 152 Introductory Financial Accounting II
3. ACCTG 211 Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making
4. BA 250 Small Business Management
5. MKTG 220 Introduction to Selling Techniques
6. MKTG 221 Contemporary American Marketing
7. MKTG 310 Public Relations and Marketing
8. MKTG 327 Retailing
9. MGMT 100 Survey of Management
10. MGMT 150 Supervisory Management
11. MGMT 321 Leadership and Motivation
12. MGMT 341 Human Resource Management
13. ECON 102 Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy
14. ECON 104 Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy
15. ECON 14 Principles of Economics

Requirements for the Option

Baccalaureate Option (17 credits)

Prescribed Courses

Additional Courses

Generalized Business Option (15-16 credits)

Prescribed Courses

Additional Courses

Individualized Option (15 credits)

Supporting Courses and Related Areas

Select 15 credits in consultation with an adviser that follow a coherent theme in information sciences and technology with a grade of C or better required for all IST courses.

Software Option (15 credits)

Prescribed Courses

IST Internship

IST 211
**Information Sciences and Technology, A.S. (Berks)**

**IST 247  3**

**IST 256  Programming for the Web  3**

**Additional Courses**

Select one of the following:

- **MATH 17  Finite Mathematics**
- **MATH 21  College Algebra I**
- **MATH 22  College Algebra II and Analytic Geometry**
- **MATH 26  Plane Trigonometry**

**Networking Option (15 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IST 225</td>
<td>PC Hardware Basics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 226</td>
<td>Networking Essentials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 227</td>
<td>Network Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 228</td>
<td>Advanced Network Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

**Additional Courses**

Select one of the following:

- **MATH 17  Finite Mathematics**
- **MATH 21  College Algebra I**
- **MATH 22  College Algebra II and Analytic Geometry**
- **MATH 26  Plane Trigonometry**

**Telecommunications Option (15 credits)**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IST 221</td>
<td>PC Hardware Basics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 222</td>
<td>Community Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 223</td>
<td>Network Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 224</td>
<td>Advanced Network Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

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<td>Network Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 224</td>
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**Additional Courses**

Select one of the following:

- **MATH 17  Finite Mathematics**
- **MATH 21  College Algebra I**
- **MATH 22  College Algebra II and Analytic Geometry**
- **MATH 26  Plane Trigonometry**

**Program Learning Objectives**

1. **Know the System Development Lifecycle (SDL):** Demonstrate knowledge of the SDL by applying its methods to network projects and various networking hand-on lab exercises.

2. **Know Networking Systems and Industry Methods:** Demonstrate ability to apply various industry standards in networking, server maintenance, and hardware standards.

3. **Use Information Sciences Theory/Practice:** Use management theory and information technology processes in managing networks. Which includes best practices for network and infrastructure design, development, and implementation.

4. **Manage Network Systems:** Demonstrate knowledge of designing and management various networking systems.

5. **Know Security Risk Factors:** Demonstrate knowledge technology risk factors for networks, servers, various hardware components and their impact on technology systems. Having the ability to secure various networks, using the latest industry standards and best practices, design, develop, and implement (i.e. securing hardware, software compliance, etc.).

**Academic Advising**

The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic advisor, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

**Berks**

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wpc2@psu.edu

**Suggested Academic Plan**  
**Baccalaureate Option at Berks Campus**

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

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<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30†</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>IST 110†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 111†</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 250†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 140 or CMPSC 101†‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits 16</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100B (CAS 100A may be substituted with Dean’s approval. Consult adviser for details.)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 210†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 110 or 140†</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits 16</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elective</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits 16</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 220*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCM 200 or STAT 200</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 230*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits 16</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Second Year</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C or 202D†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 295A or 295B (Students may wish to enroll in the course over the summer. Students interested in pursuing either the B.A. or B.S. in Information Sciences &amp; Technology degree should consider IST 495. Consult adviser for details.)†</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 240 or 242‡</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 260 (Course fulfills the Writing Across The Curriculum Requirement.)*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits 13</strong></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major  
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education  
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement  
‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

**University Requirements and General Education Notes:**

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GN, GA, GH, and GS). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of "C" or better.

Integrative Studies courses can be completed for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

1 The following courses are offered Fall Semester only: IST 250.  
2 The following courses are offered Spring Semester only: IST 240, 242.
**Generalized Business Option at Berks Campus**

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### First Year

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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 or 30†</td>
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<tr>
<td>IST 250*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 140 or CMPSC 101†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### First Year

#### Spring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100B (CAS 100A may be substituted with Dean’s approval. Consult adviser for details.)†</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 210*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Requirement</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Option Requirement</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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</table>

### Second Year

#### Fall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IST 220*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option Requirement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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### Second Year

#### Spring

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C or 202D‡</td>
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**Elective**  4

**Total Credits**  14

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‡ Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

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Integrative Studies courses can be completed for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

† The following courses are offered Fall Semester only: IST 250.

‡ For Option Requirement, consult adviser for list.

**Individualized Option at Berks Campus**

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### First Year

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General Education Course 3

Total Credits 15

Second Year

Fall

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Total Credits 15

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<td>Option Requirement</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy University Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

GWS, GQ, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GN, GA, GH, and GS). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ‘C’ or better.

Integrative Studies courses can be completed for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

1 The following courses are offered Fall Semester only: IST 250.
2 For Option Requirement, consult adviser for list. All IST courses require a grade of C or better.
http://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/ist

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