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

Begin Campus: World Campus, University Park
End Campus: World Campus, University Park

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
Available at the following campuses: Berks, DuBois, Greater Allegheny,
Mont Alto, New Kensington, Scranton, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, World
Campus, York

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
Available at the following campuses: Berks, DuBois, Hazleton, Mont Alto, New
Kensington, Scranton, University Park, World Campus, York

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

Individualized Option
Available at the following campuses: Berks, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton,
Mont Alto, New Kensington, Scranton, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, World
Campus, York

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.

Networking Option
Available at the following campuses: DuBois, Mont Alto, Shenango, World
Campus, York

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

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>

9-12 of the 21 credits for General Education are included in the
Requirements for the Major. For all options, this includes: 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 0-3 credits of GS
courses to equal 9-12 credits that double count.

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 associate degree
students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements
of a program. For additional information, see the General Education
Requirements (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-
education/associate-degree-general-education-program/) section of the
Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

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.

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  

Note: Up to six credits of Inter-domain courses may be used for any Knowledge Domain requirement, but when a course is used to satisfy more than one requirement, the credits from the course can be counted only once.

Foundations or Knowledge Domains  
• Any General Education course: 3 credits

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
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).

Common Requirements for the Major (All Options)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAS 100B</td>
<td>Effective Speech</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 15</td>
<td>Rhetoric and Composition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 101</td>
<td>Introduction to Programming</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 110</td>
<td>Information, People and Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 111S</td>
<td>Seminar in Information Sciences and Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 210</td>
<td>Organization of Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 220</td>
<td>Networking and Telecommunications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 250</td>
<td>Introduction to Web Design and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 260W</td>
<td>Introduction to Systems Analysis and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
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Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 21</td>
<td>College Algebra I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 22</td>
<td>College Algebra II and Analytic Geometry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 26</td>
<td>Plane Trigonometry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 37</td>
<td>Finite Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCTG 151</td>
<td>Introductory Financial Accounting I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCTG 152</td>
<td>Introductory Financial Accounting II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCTG 211</td>
<td>Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BA 250</td>
<td>Small Business Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102</td>
<td>Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy or ECON 104Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ECON 14</td>
<td>Principles of Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 100</td>
<td>Survey of Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 321</td>
<td>Leadership and Motivation</td>
<td></td>
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<td>MGMT 341</td>
<td>Human Resource Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKTG 220</td>
<td>Introduction to Selling Techniques</td>
<td></td>
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<td>MKTG 221</td>
<td>Contemporary American Marketing</td>
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<td>MKTG 310</td>
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<td>MKTG 327</td>
<td>Retailing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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Individualized Option (15 credits)
Available at the following campuses: Berks, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Scranton, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, World Campus, York

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 202C</td>
<td>Effective Writing: Technical Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Effective Writing: Business Writing

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<tr>
<td>IST 295A</td>
<td>Distributed Team Project</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or IST 295B</td>
<td>IST Internship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Requirements for the Option

Baccalaureate Option (17 credits)
Available at the following campuses: Berks, DuBois, Greater Allegheny, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Scranton, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, World Campus, York

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 102</td>
<td>Introductory Microeconomic Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 200</td>
<td>Elementary Statistics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IST 230</td>
<td>Language, Logic, and Discrete Mathematics and Introduction to Computer Languages</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional Courses

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 110</td>
<td>Techniques of Calculus I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 140</td>
<td>Calculus With Analytic Geometry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Generalized Business Option (15-16 credits)
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Requirements for the Option

Individualized Option (15 credits)
Available at the following campuses: Berks, Greater Allegheny, Hazleton, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Scranton, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, World Campus, York
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.

Networking Option (15 credits)
Available at the following campuses: DuBois, Mont Alto, Shenango, World Campus, York

Prescribed Courses

IST 225  PC Hardware Basics  3
IST 226  Networking Essentials  3
IST 227  Network Administration  3
IST 228  Advanced Network Administration  3

Additional Courses
Select one of the following:  3
MATH 21  College Algebra I
MATH 22  College Algebra II and Analytic Geometry
MATH 26  Plane Trigonometry
MATH 37  Finite Mathematics

Program Learning Objectives

- **Know Networking Systems and Industry Methods**: Demonstrate ability to apply various industry standards in networking, server maintenance, and hardware standards.
- **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.).
- **Know the System Development Lifecycle (SDLC)**: Demonstrate knowledge of the SDLC by applying its methods to information systems projects and lab exercises.
- **Manage Network Systems**: Demonstrate knowledge of designing and management various networking systems.
- **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.

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 adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

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

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https://ist.psu.edu/about/contact

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weifan@psu.edu
http://wilkesbarre.psu.edu/academics/ist/associate-degrees

World Campus
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814-865-8947
https://ist.psu.edu/about/contact

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717-771-4143
wpc2@psu.edu
http://york.psu.edu/academics/baccalaureate/information-sciences-and-technology

https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/information-sciences-and-technology-associates/overview

https://montalto.psu.edu/academics/associate/information-sciences-and-technology-degree