INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY, B.A.

Begin Campus: Abington, Altoona, Berks, Beaver, Brandywine, DuBois, Erie, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, Harrisburg, Hazleton, Lehigh Valley, Mont Alto, New Kensington, Shenango, Schuylkill, University Park, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, York

End Campus: University Park

PROGRAM CURRENTLY ON HOLD; NOT ACCEPTING NEW STUDENTS
Begin Date of Enrollment Hold: December 6, 2016

Program Description

The Bachelor of Arts in Information Sciences and Technology will provide students who are inherently independent and creative with new avenues of study. This degree will be one which will provide them with a thorough grounding in information sciences and technology but also the flexibility to design a curriculum of study to fit their interests and aspirations. Whether these students wish to blend information science and technology with the arts, the humanities, or with the sciences, this degree will provide them with the breadth of experience that they need to accomplish their goals. The core of the B.A. program in IST will parallel that of the B.S. degree, thus the B.A. student will be equipped with the same core expertise and tools sets that they need to be able to navigate through the increasingly complex technology landscape. However, the flexibility of the curriculum will give them the opportunity to learn how to apply IT creatively. The B.A. in IST will be highly interdisciplinary, as is fitting for an expressly interdisciplinary college. The degree will be suitable for students who wish to be entrepreneurs, who seek to go on to law or medical school, or who want to acquire an advanced degree in graduate studies.

Entrance to Major

To be eligible for entrance to the Information Sciences and Technology (ISTBA) major, students must:

1. have achieved at least third semester classification while pursuing a program of study that includes at least two of the following four courses with a grade of C or better in each: IST 110, IST 130, IST 210, IST 220.
2. have met with a member of the IST Advising staff, with the outcome being a workable academic plan selected either from a set of example templates (e.g., pre-law) or developed in consultation with the adviser. This meeting must take place prior to the completion of 60 credits. At campuses other than University Park, students will meet with a local IST adviser to develop their academic plans.

Degree Requirements

For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Information Sciences and Technology, a minimum of 125 credits is required:

Requirement	Credits
General Education	45
Electives	16
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements	24
Requirements for the Major	40

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/baccalaureate-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):** 6 credits
- **Writing and Speaking (GWS):** 9 credits

Knowledge Domains
- **Arts (GA):** 6 credits
- **Health and Wellness (GHW):** 3 credits
- **Humanities (GH):** 6 credits
- **Social and Behavioral Sciences(GS):** 6 credits
- **Natural Sciences (GN):** 9 credits

Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)
- **Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses:** 6 credits

University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

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 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 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

The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. 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.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/#advisingandplanningadegreeprogramtext).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student's primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

3 of these 24 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major

A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade 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).

Code	Title	Credits
Prescribed Courses		
Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better		
IST 110	Information, People and Technology	3
IST 130	Emerging Technologies in Popular Culture	3
IST 210	Organization of Data	3
IST 220	Networking and Telecommunications	3
IST 495	Internship	1
IST 440	Information Sciences and Technology Integration and Problem Solving	3
Supporting Courses and Related Areas		
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better		
Select 24 credits (at least 12 credits at the 400 level) of IST and IST-related courses in consultation with academic adviser		24

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 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)

University Park

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Contact

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https://ist.psu.edu/directory/office/grad_undergrad_studies