

# INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY, B.S. (INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY)

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**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus

**End Campus:** University Park, World Campus

## Program Description

This major is structured to provide students with the theoretical frameworks and skill sets necessary to compete and be productive in the information technology-intensive global context that defines the new "Information Age." Specifically, the degree will be focused on a program that will build an understanding of core information technologies and related areas of study; will prepare students for the practical application of various information sciences and related technologies; and engage students in sharpening their abilities to think critically and to work in teams. All this will be done with considerable interdisciplinary integration in order to expose students to the cognitive, social, institutional, and global environments of IST. Team projects in most courses, a required internship, and a senior capstone experience provide additional, focused venues for involving students in the cutting-edge issues and technologies of the field.

## Information Context: People, Organizations, and Society Option

*Available at the following campuses: University Park*

This option focuses on how information technology affects social change and the delivery of information to the consumer. This includes the human-machine interface; organization and retrieval of information; digital libraries; information and telecommunications services; information and media industry structures; software services and intermediaries; telecommunications and information law and policy; sociological aspects of technology change; multimedia; and art, design, and aesthetics.

## Information Systems: Design & Development Option

*Available at the following campuses: Harrisburg, World Campus*

This option is focused on expanding the skills needed to develop advanced information technology systems using state-of-the-art tools and techniques. The emphasis is on providing the student with both knowledge in the design, implementation, testing and evolution of complex software systems as well as a set of project-oriented, team-programming experiences.

## Information Technology: Integration & Application Option

*Available at the following campuses: Harrisburg, World Campus*

This option is designed to prepare students to use information technology to realize a variety of system-based goals (e.g., reliability, accessibility, efficiency, etc.). It is focused on developing a theoretical foundation and the skill set needed for integrating information technology into different systems for the purpose of enhancing system performance. The emphasis is on providing the student with both the theoretical frameworks needed to use information technology as a

system attribute as well as a set of application-oriented experiences and skills.

## What is Information Sciences and Technology?

Information Sciences and Technology is a discipline that explores how we can strengthen the power of information and technology, and use it to increase human potential. This includes focusing on creating innovative systems and technological solutions that benefit businesses, organizations, and individuals, and understanding the role of technology in how we live our lives.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (<https://ist.psu.edu/prospective/undergraduate/academics/ist/>)

## You Might Like This Program If...

- You want to develop new software and web applications, help businesses operate more effectively by creating and implementing technological solutions, or understand how technology is connected to broader social issues.
- You are interested in technology but also want to work with people.
- You enjoy coming up with creative solutions to difficult challenges.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHY STUDENTS CHOOSE TO STUDY INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (<https://ist.psu.edu/prospective/undergraduate/academics/ist/>)