INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Admission decisions are based primarily on undergraduate junior-senior grade-point average and the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) scores or Graduate Record Exam (GRE) scores. Post-baccalaureate course work, professional experience, and the statements provided in the application are also taken into account.

Students are also required to submit the following:

- a completed Graduate School application (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/) with application fee
- official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/);
- official scores from the GMAT test or GRE test (the test must have been taken within the past five years); and
- letters of recommendation (optional)

Application Dates

Candidates may enter the program at the beginning of the fall, spring, or summer session. To allow time for applications to be processed, all information, including GMAT or GRE score, must be received by Graduate Enrollment Services no later than:

- July 18 for admission to the fall semester
- November 18 for admission to the spring semester, and
- April 18 for admission to the summer session.

Applicants from outside the United States must follow the early admission dates in order to allow the necessary clearances and paperwork to be processed in time. International application deadline dates are:

- Fall Semester--May 31
- Spring Semester--September 30
- Summer Session--February 28

To be considered for a graduate assistantship, applicants must submit a complete application by March 1.

Entry Requirements

Credits obtained to fulfill entry and pre-program requirements cannot be applied towards the requirements for the degree.

Analytic Skills Requirement

Prior to enrolling in their M.S.I.S. course work, students are required to demonstrate competence in Analytic skills. This requirement may be demonstrated by:

1. satisfactory completion of college-level mathematics course or
2. successful completion of a mathematics proficiency examination approved by the M.S.I.S. program. This requirement must be taken either during the first semester or summer session before the student's matriculation and completed with a grade of C or better.

Computer Skills Requirement

Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in the use of computer applications. This requirement can be satisfied through completion of a college-level computer applications or information systems course within the past five years with a grade of B or higher or by documented significant computer-related work experience. If this requirement has not been met prior to admission, a college-level computer-based information systems course such as MIS 204 is required. Course work must be taken either during the first semester or summer session before the student's matriculation and completed with a grade of B or higher.

Communication Skills Requirement

Successful completion of the M.S.I.S. program requires the ability to think clearly and to write and speak persuasively. Part of this requirement can be met by obtaining a score of "4" or more on the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) or Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Analytical Writing Assessment (AWA). If this score is not achieved, students must satisfy this requirement through additional course work in writing skills or other work developed in consultation with the M.S.I.S. Program. This requirement must be satisfied during the first semester or summer session before the student's matriculation and completed with a grade of B or higher. The speech component of this requirement is satisfied through individual and group presentations in courses in the M.S.I.S. Program.

Pre-Program Requirement

The Pre-program requirement provides a basic foundation in theory, tools and techniques required for the management of profit and non-profit organizations. It also provides a basic understanding of applications of financial accounting, the creation and distribution of goods and services, business and how people relate to others in various organizations, helping to merge two related disciplines: business and information systems. Students who have completed the appropriate pre-program courses previously must have completed the courses with a grade of B or higher within seven years prior to admission, or through equivalent graduate course work completed with a B or higher within seven years prior to admission or college level course work validated by recent work experience. Students who have not met these tests of relevancy, grade, or currency prior to admission to the program must take these courses at the graduate level and early in program.

Code	Title	Credits
Pre-Program Requirement		
BUS 505	Data Analysis for Business Decisions	3
Select 6 credits from the following:		6
ACCT 501	Financial Statement Analysis	
BUSEC 502	Economics for Managers	
MNGMT 511	Organizational Behavior	
Total Credits		**9**