DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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Professor and chair
business.vcu.edu/academics/information-systems (https://business.vcu.edu/academics/information-systems/)

The Department of Information Systems provides an innovative, high quality curriculum that is recognized nationally and internationally and maintains the ability to rapidly respond to the dynamic, changing needs of the academic discipline, industry and community.

The department offers degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Additionally, courses in information systems are offered to meet the needs of students in other curricula offered by the university as well as those who are seeking to enhance their knowledge of information systems.

Departmental faculty members offer expertise in information technology and have wide-ranging research and teaching interests. The department has an industry advisory board and provides students with opportunities to work on real-world projects with external clients.

- Information Systems, Bachelor of Science (B.S.) (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/business/information-systems/information-systems-bs/)
- Information Systems, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate undergraduate certificate) (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/business/information-systems/information-systems-certificate/)
- Information systems, minor in (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/business/information-systems/information-systems-minor/)

INFO 202. Introduction to Information Systems Development Technologies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to the technologies used in building information systems in business. Students will be introduced to current or emerging Web languages, business software development environments, user experience and design, Web application servers, and other packages used in creating and running Web applications.

INFO 250. Introduction to Programming. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BUSN 171*. Introduces students to writing, testing and debugging Java programs using simple logic and algorithms. Basic Java applets and the graphic user interface are covered. Cannot be used as an elective in the information systems major. *Formerly MGMT 171, SCMA 171.

INFO 291. Topics in Information Systems. 1-3 Hours.
Variable hours. Variable credit. Maximum of 3 credits per topic. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An in-depth study of selected business topics. Graded as pass/fail at the option of the department.

INFO 300. Information Technology Infrastructure. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: INFO 202, CMSC 245 or CMSC 255. The course introduces principles of computer hardware and software architecture and organization. The focus is on surveying what is likely to be encountered in the IT legacy today, emerging technologies and introducing data structures and algorithms.

INFO 320. Business Intelligence and Data Mining. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SCMA 301*, STAT 210 or STAT 212. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). Modeling business-related problems using information systems tools and quantitative techniques. Focus is on relevant business and external data, quantitative analysis and presentation of findings. Typical problem situations involve suggested productivity improvements, revenue enhancement opportunities and marketing. *Formerly MGMT 301.

INFO 350. Programming. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: INFO 202, INFO 250, CMSC 245 or CMSC 255; and MATH 211, both with a minimum grade of C. Object-oriented programming and algorithmic design are introduced using C# and the .NET Framework. Emphasizes building business applications using the .NET Framework Class Library and the components, events and message handling therein. Intermediate Web application development is also covered. Students cannot receive credit for both CMSC 256 and INFO 350.

INFO 360. Business Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours (delivered online, face-to-face or hybrid). 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). Provides an understanding of the importance of computer-based information in the success of the firm. Emphasis is on the role of information systems within each of the functional areas of business. Major concepts include data management, decision support and management information systems.

INFO 361. Systems Analysis and Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). Examines the concepts, tools and techniques used to develop and support computer-based information systems. Systems planning, analysis, design and implementation are covered. Behavioral and model building aspects of systems development are emphasized throughout.

INFO 364. Database Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: INFO 202, INFO 250, CMSC 245 or CMSC 255; and MATH 211, both with a minimum grade of C. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). Designed to prepare students for development of systems involving databases and database management.

INFO 370. Fundamentals of Data Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 211 with a minimum grade of C; INFO 300. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). Computer networks and data communications. Provides an understanding of the underlying concepts of computer networking. Emphasis is placed on terminology, techniques and issues in networking systems.

INFO 450. Advanced Programming. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 350 with a minimum grade of C. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). Students use Python to implement advanced programming concepts such as recursion, file manipulation and the use of classes to build reusable modules. Students will also use advanced data structures such as Pandas to clean and analyze large data sets. Students cannot receive credit for both CMSC 245/246 and INFO 450.
INFO 451. Advanced Technology for Web Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: INFO 350 and INFO 364 with minimum grades of C. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). Focuses on the technical aspects of developing systems using Web services and Web server controls to build visually interactive and highly responsive Web applications. Students will learn how various XML APIs (processing, messaging and distributed registries) are used under the umbrella of Web services to support the sharing of data and processes for business applications. The course will integrate the students’ prior knowledge of client-side GUI development with server-side controls, components and behaviors in a multitiered environment that includes database connectivity.

INFO 461. Information Systems Planning and Project Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 361. Concentrated study of planning methods and techniques required for defining, planning, integrating and implementing information technology projects consistent with the organizational strategic plan and mission.

INFO 463. Business Process Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 361. This course is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). A survey of legacy system re-engineering technologies in which the student becomes familiar with a variety of tools used in practice and has the opportunity to develop applications using these tools under supervision. Selection of technologies is determined each semester.

INFO 465. Projects in Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: INFO 350, INFO 364 and INFO 370. Students will work in teams, using the Scrum methodology, to execute a semester-long application development project. Students will use the skills acquired from the prerequisites to take a project from a formal business proposal to a finished product. The finished product is delivered through multiple sprints.

INFO 468. Information Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: INFO 361 and INFO 364. This course is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). A study of information engineering as a model-based, data-centric approach to integrating organizational strategic planning with enterprise information systems development. Involves readings, group discussion and case studies.

INFO 472. Infrastructure Services. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 370. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). This course provides an overview of Local Area Network technology and underlying protocols, complemented with a hands-on introduction to LAN administration using network operating systems. Wired and wireless networking fundamentals, network administration security and administration in cloud environments are also covered.

INFO 474. Advanced Networking and Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 370. Enrollment is restricted to students who have completed at least 54 credit hours (junior standing). The course provides the foundation for understanding the key issues associated with protecting information assets, determining the levels of protection and response to security incidents, and designing a consistent, reasonable information security system, with appropriate intrusion detection and reporting features.