INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Information systems is the area of computer science that focuses on analyzing the information and communication needs of organizations and devising IT solutions that meet cost requirements and promote the organization's strategic goals. Information systems professionals fill a critical role across many sectors; they implement and manage complex systems projects, design business processes, and provide support of management and decision-making. Students in the Information Systems degree programs examine current and emerging technologies, gain strategies for analyzing and modeling data, and develop communication skills to work collaboratively.

Degrees Offered

- Information Systems, BPhil (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/information-systems/information-systems-bphil/)
- Information Systems, BS (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/information-systems/information-systems-bsis/)
- Information Systems, BSGS (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/sps/undergraduate/information-systems/information-systems-bsgs/)

Information Systems Courses

CIS 110-CN Introduction to Computer Programming (1 Unit)
Introduction to programming practices for students who have no previous programming background. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 110-DL Introduction to Programming (1 Unit)
Introduction to programming practices for students who have no previous programming background. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 130-CN Tools and Technologies of the World Wide Web (1 Unit)
Introduction to the current tools and technologies used for designing and developing interactive websites.

CIS 130-DL Tools and Technology of the Web (1 Unit)
Introduction to the current tools and technologies used for designing and developing interactive websites. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 212-CN Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming (1 Unit)
Introduction to core elements of object-oriented programming; transfer of those concepts into Java language. May not be audited or taken P/N.
Prerequisite: CIS 110-CN.

CIS 212-DL Introduction to Object-Oriented Programming (1 Unit)
Introduction to core elements of object-oriented programming; transfer of those concepts into Java language. May not be audited or taken P/N.
Prerequisite: CIS 110-CN.

CIS 220-PP Introduction to Computational Thinking (1 Unit)
NPEP course.

CIS 313-CN Telecommunications and Computer Networks (1 Unit)
Overview of telecommunications and computer networks. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 313-DL Telecommunications and Computer Networks (1 Unit)
Overview of telecommunications and computer networks. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 314-CN Intermediate Programming (1 Unit)
Concepts and practices of advanced object-oriented software design and development. May not be audited or taken P/N.
Prerequisite: CIS 212-CN.

CIS 317-CN Database Systems Design & Implementation (1 Unit)
This course covers the fundamentals of database design and management. Topics include the principles and methodologies of database design, database application development, normalization, referential integrity, security, relational database models, and database languages. Principles are applied by performing written assignments and a project using an SQL database system.

CIS 317-DL Database Systems Design and Implementation (1 Unit)
Database Systems Design and Implementation.

CIS 323-CN Python for Data Science (1 Unit)
Overview of Python programming language with emphasis on capabilities to analyze data. May not be audited or taken P/N.
Prerequisite: CIS 212-CN and STAT 202-CN or equivalents.

CIS 323-DL Python for Data Science (1 Unit)
Introduction to data science concepts, techniques, and tools with an emphasis on building practical business applications. May not be audited or taken P/N.
Prerequisite: CIS 323-CN or equivalent.

CIS 324-DL Applied Data Science (1 Unit)
Introduction to data science concepts, techniques, and tools with an emphasis on building practical business applications. May not be audited or taken P/N.
Prerequisite: CIS 324-CN or equivalent.

CIS 325-CN Enterprise Data Science (1 Unit)
Overview of enterprise data science tools, processes, and environment. Application of data science and machine learning techniques in an enterprise environment.
Prerequisite: CIS 324-CN or CIS 324-DL.

CIS 325-DL Enterprise Data Science (1 Unit)
Overview of enterprise data science tools, processes, and environment. Application of data science and machine learning techniques in an enterprise environment.
Prerequisite: CIS 324-CN or CIS 324-DL.

CIS 326-CN Data Engineering (1 Unit)
Overview of the discipline of data engineering, its tools and ecosystem.
Prerequisite: CIS 317-CN or equivalent, or knowledge of SQL.

CIS 326-DL Data Engineering (1 Unit)
Overview of the discipline of data engineering. Its tools and ecosystem.
Prerequisite: CIS 317-CN or equivalent, or knowledge of SQL.

CIS 330-CN Human Computer Interaction (1 Unit)
Introduction to research that encompasses usability, design, information architecture, psychology, ethnography, and software engineering. Topics include: contextual interviews; design process; prototype construction; evaluation techniques. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 345-CN Information Security (1 Unit)
Practical knowledge to understand, manage, and ensure the security of an organization's information assets. Concepts of information security, business continuity, disaster recovery, and risk management are presented. May not be audited or taken P/N.
Prerequisite: CIS 313-CN or equivalent.

CIS 345-DL Information Security (1 Unit)
This course provides students with practical knowledge to understand, manage, and ensure the security of an organization’s information assets.
Concepts of information security, business continuity, disaster recovery, and risk management are presented. The course includes fundamentals of risk analysis and the legal, ethical, and social issues involved. To assist in meeting the security requirements, concepts of privacy, basic tools for information security, and identification and authentication in local, distributed, and cloud environments are introduced. Other topics include the basics of encryption and digital signatures; physical, technical, and organizational security protocols and policies; and information security standards. Class case discussions are held in the context of business and nonprofit organizations.

CIS 350-DL Information Technology Strategy (1 Unit)
This course examines current issues, themes, and research related to the strategic use of information systems in organizations at a high level. It focuses on the use of information and information technology for competitive advantage in businesses, organizations, and nonprofits. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 360-DL AI with Deep Learning (1 Unit)
AI algorithms and deep learning techniques that can be used for AI powered problem solving, object detection & tracking, speech recognition, behavioral cloning.
Prerequisite: CIS 324-DL.

CIS 361-DL Natural Language Processing AI (1 Unit)
AI algorithms and deep learning techniques that can be used for AI powered problem solving, object detection & tracking, speech recognition, behavioral cloning.
Prerequisite: CIS 324-DL.

CIS 370-CN System Analysis and Design (1 Unit)
Overview of the systems development lifecycle (SDLC), with an emphasis on developing quality software systems that meet business requirements and goals. Students acquire the basic skill set needed by business analysts in today’s complex development environment. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 370-DL System Analysis and Design (1 Unit)
Overview of the systems development lifecycle (SDLC), with an emphasis on developing quality software systems that meet business requirements and goals. Students acquire the basic skill set needed by business analysts in today’s complex development environment. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 380-CN Information Architecture (1 Unit)
Introduction to the concepts, foundations and components of information architecture (IA) in the digital environment of the World Wide Web. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 385-CN Programming for the Web (1 Unit)
Introduction to the concepts, foundations, and components of programming for the web. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 385-DL Programming for the Web (1 Unit)
Introduction to the concepts, foundations, and components of programming for the web. May not be audited or taken P/N.

CIS 394-CN Project Management Concepts (1 Unit)
This course introduces effective frameworks and methods for developing information technology and systems strategies that focus on meeting enterprises business objectives and on leveraging IT to competitively extend business capabilities. Topics covered include business driver identification and business and IT alignment; key technology components of the IT strategy, including enterprise architecture, enterprise systems, SOA and other integration technologies, networks, and data management; portfolio management; sourcing and hosting alternatives; emerging technologies and entrepreneurship.

CIS 395-CN Topics in Information Systems: (1 Unit)
Topics vary. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

CIS 395-DL Information Systems Capstone (1 Unit)
Students will put to practice what they have learned throughout the program to present a completed project that delivers value to their business case. Students will create a project plan with dates of major milestones, cover the various aspects of the software development life cycle (SDLC), and follow software engineering and engineering best in every stage of the SDLC.

CIS 399-CN Independent Study - Projects (1 Unit)