Welcome

The Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) program at Central Michigan University prepares students to enter various information systems positions in business, consulting, government, or nonprofit organizations; to teach computer applications and information systems at community colleges; or to enter doctoral programs in information systems-related areas after graduation.

The MSIS program at CMU features high quality faculty who are dedicated to teaching and helping students succeed in their studies. Even students without a strong technical background in information systems or information technology can be successful in the program.

Career Opportunities

Published business surveys, articles, and news reports illustrate an important need for employees with an MSIS degree.

The Central Michigan University MSIS program offers an information systems education relevant to current career opportunities. The program focuses on careers involved in deploying computer technology to address the problems and opportunities of modern organizations. Some of these careers may require additional education.

- Applications Programmer
- Database Analyst
- Information Analyst
- Network Manager
- Systems Programmer
- Business Analyst
- Enterprise Software Analyst
- Information Center Consultant
- Systems Analyst
- Web Developer

Other careers involve marketing hardware and software, designing teleprocessing and communication networks, managing data entry and retrieval, and systems consulting. Careers in government agencies and business and nonprofit organizations also are available.

Academic Program

The MSIS program and all other programs in CMU's College of Business Administration are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (see www.aacsb.edu).

Each student in the MSIS program is required to complete 33 graduate credits, pass a comprehensive examination, and satisfy a research requirement through an applied project.

**Required core courses**

- Introduction to Information Systems
- Application Development
- Systems Analysis and Design
- Database Management for Business Systems

**Areas of Concentration**

Each applicant, with MSIS director approval, must complete an area of concentration in one of four areas:

- Accounting Information Systems
- Enterprise Systems (using SAP software)
- Business Informations
- Information Systems

Students in the Enterprise Systems concentration take courses in SAP enterprise software management, ABAP programming, and SAP configuration.

**Research Requirements**

To fulfill the research requirement, students must complete a Plan B applied project. The plan B business systems applications project allows students to demonstrate creativity and involves an information systems development activity that builds upon concepts learned in courses such as database and systems development. Each student also must complete a written report on the application of information systems within an organization and pass a comprehensive examination in information systems.

CMU is an AA/EO institution, providing equal opportunity to all persons, including minorities, females, veterans and individuals with disabilities. See www.cmich.edu/aaeo.
Admission Requirements

Admission to the MSIS program is competitive. To be considered for admission to the program, a student must meet CMU College of Graduate Studies admission requirements and present an acceptable undergraduate grade point average. Students may follow either the full-time on-campus track (minimum of 9 credit hours per regular semester) or part-time track (less than 9 credit hours per regular semester).

**Entrance Exam**
All applicants to the MSIS are required to take the GMAT or the GRE and have the results reported to this university. The GMAT and GRE are aptitude tests designed to measure capabilities important to the study of management at the graduate level. The GMAT institutional reporting code varies by program. Be sure to use the correct code to report your score: 7PX-TT-82. The GRE is also accepted for MSIS applications. The reporting code for GRE is: 1106.

Applications are evaluated competitively based on undergraduate and/or graduate GPA, GMAT or GRE scores, and recommendations. The admissions committee does not have absolute minimum GMAT or GRE scores for admission. You should plan accordingly to allow yourself enough time to prepare for the exam and for the score to be reported by the intended application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

**Placement Exam**
All entering MSIS students are required to take a placement examination. Results from the exam are used to help design an initial course work curriculum. The exam tests a student’s fundamental knowledge in computer literacy and business processes. Students who pass the exam may start their graduate studies. A student who does not pass a component(s) of the exam will be required to take foundation course(s) as determined by the director of the MSIS Program. Foundation courses do not count towards the MSIS degree.

**Admissions Process and Deadlines for MSIS**
For Fall Semester, classes begin late August. Application deadlines are June 1 for U.S. applicants and March 1 for international students. For Spring Semester, classes begin in early January and the deadlines are September 15 for U.S. students and August 15 for international students. Once admitted, an advanced deposit is required of $250 (if the student may request a refund if denied a visa).

**International Students**
The MSIS program is classified as a STEM program, which may qualify international students with an F-1 visa to extend OPT for an additional 17 months. Students who are not from a TOEFL-exempt country must have a minimum TOEFL score of 79, IELTS of 6.5, or an equivalent score on another recognized English proficiency exam. Conditional admission is possible.

**MSIS Faculty**
MSIS faculty members bring many years of education, technical expertise, and practical business experience to the classroom and are readily available for one-on-one advising.

**Faculty research areas include:**
- Enterprise software
- Distance learning
- Ethical issues in information systems
- Electronic commerce
- Decision support systems
- Global information systems
- Information systems quality
- Information technology management and teaching issues

Faculty members also provide consulting to members of the community and other academic institutions interested in using SAP software as a teaching tool.

**SAP University Program Alliance**
Since 1997, CMU maintains an alliance with SAP, the world’s leading enterprise software provider, and uses SAP technology to support many business courses, and more than 8,800 students have received SAP Awards of Recognition. In addition, the Dow Chemical Company has sponsored special awards for students demonstrating excellence in SAP-related course work.

CMU uses SAP technology as a tool to help teach business concepts. For example, MSIS graduate students directly interact with a “real business” executing “real functions and transactions” in a life-like, business-to-business ERP/SAP simulation.