



School of  
**Information Sciences**

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**Undergraduate  
Program**

**Bachelor of Science  
in Information Science**



Abdul Salem (BSIS '07), software engineer, Google

## Why Information Science?

Career opportunities in the information sciences are as diverse as the people who pursue them. Our graduates work in hospitals, banks, multinational corporations, fine arts, entertainment, manufacturing, and the U.S. government. Because effective information is such an indispensable resource, the opportunities for people who can serve as the link between today's workforce and technology are virtually limitless.

Typical job titles for our alumni include the following:

- System analyst and designer
- Account manager
- Web site designer
- Information architect
- Information analyst
- Project data manager
- Database manager
- Network analyst
- Web report developer

The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that information technology-related jobs will see a growth of 27–53 percent in the next decade.

**Think of it this way:** The amount of information that is available triples each year. That creates a growing demand for people who can manage the data wisely.

# Bachelor of Science in Information Science

at the University of Pittsburgh



**Vladimir Zadorozhny**, associate professor, helps students to understand databases.

*There can be little doubt* that we are living in the age of information. As indispensable as knowledge and as vital as truth, information is truly the currency of the world's economic, political, medical, and social systems. It touches every corner of our society, and its effective management is crucial to the advancement of our civilization.

The undergraduate degree program in information sciences at the University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences enables our graduates to design and manage the technology tools that will efficiently manage this key resource. Through a combination of practical and theoretical knowledge, our students learn how to manage not only the systems of today but also the systems of tomorrow.

Our curriculum gives you a strong foundation of knowledge in programming principles, database systems, networks, system analysis, and human-computer interaction. You also may customize your education by selecting one of our concentrations, which we designed in consultation with industry leaders. A capstone experience in the form of an internship, research at the graduate level, or a self-designed project puts the finishing touches on your undergraduate education and launches you into the next step of your journey in this rewarding field.

*On the cover:*

**Courtney Machi (BSIS '07)** is a consultant with Perot Systems, a global provider of technology-based business solutions.

## Concentrations

Because the industry demands for information science professionals vary so greatly, Pitt's undergraduate program in information science allows you to choose the course of study that best suits your goals. Concentration areas include information systems, user-centered design, and networks and security.

**Information systems** teaches students

to use object-oriented design tools to design, build, implement, and test system solutions. Just like the field itself, our program is always adapting to meet the changing needs of industry and teaches our students to stay ahead of the curve.

**User-centered design** focuses on the visual and human-computer interaction skills needed to design and build interfaces, system prototypes, and Web systems. User-centered design plays a key role in e-commerce sites and online mapping sites.

**Networks and security** teaches you to design, build, and test various networks. People in this field build firewalls, trips, and barriers to hacking. They are the security force of the information age.

Alternatively, you also can opt for a **self-designed concentration**, which allows you to select the courses that will give you the skill set for your chosen career. You can combine elements from different concentrations or add courses that will broaden your expertise.

## The Capstone Experience

As part of the undergraduate program, you will participate in a capstone experience that allows you to gain practical, hands-on skills through graduate-level research, an internship with a regional company, a designated course that focuses on a semester-long project, or a project of your own design.

If you are considering graduate school, you can participate in graduate-level research in one of our federally funded research projects. As one of the oldest and most respected research universities in the United States, Pitt is an excellent place to take advantage of research opportunities.

For students who plan to enter the job market after graduation, internships can serve as a 12-week job interview. Most of our students who successfully complete their internships are offered jobs by their host companies. Our students have interned at a wide variety of businesses, including PPG Industries, U.S. Steel Corp., Alcoa Inc., Bank of New York Mellon, WQED Multimedia, Lockheed Martin Corp., Deloitte, FedEx Ground, IBM, H.J. Heinz Co., GlaxoSmithKline, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

A self-designed project allows students to put what they've learned in the classroom to use in a real-world application. Projects may range from designing interfaces to building Web pages or applications.



Kelly Aderhold, BSIS student

## Admissions Requirements

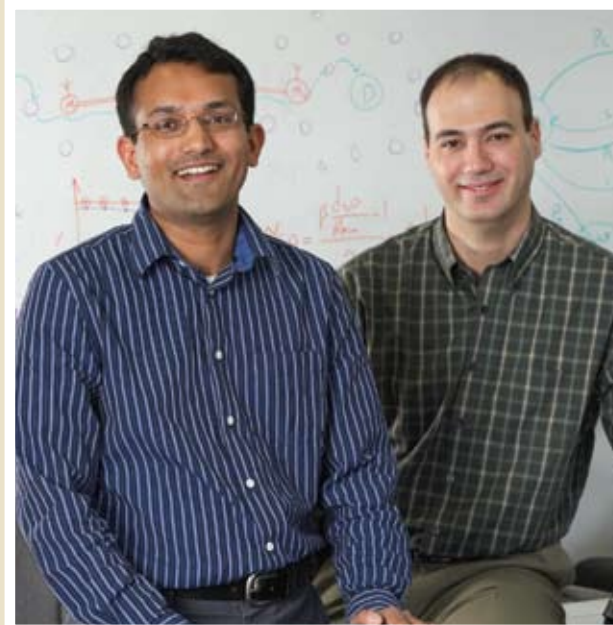
Information science is an upper-level undergraduate program. You can enter the program upon earning 55 credits from a two- or four-year university. You don't need to have a great deal of programming experience—just an interest in how technology can benefit a person, a company, or society.

Specific admissions requirements are outlined on our Web site, [www.ischool.pitt.edu/bsis/admissions](http://www.ischool.pitt.edu/bsis/admissions).

*Deadlines are August 1 for the fall term, December 1 for the spring term, and April 1 for the summer term.*

## The iSchool at Pitt

The University of Pittsburgh School of Information Sciences is a member of the iSchools Caucus, a consortium of 19 institutions of higher education that offer degrees in the information sciences and are interested in the relationship among information, technology, and people. Visit [www.ischools.org](http://www.ischools.org) for more information.



## Admissions Process

Students who already are enrolled at Pitt may apply to the information science program. They can do so by meeting with their current academic advisor and completing the Undergraduate Academic Program Change form and the School of Information Sciences transfer application.

Your advisor will submit the forms to the School of Information Sciences to be reviewed by the admissions committee. Decisions usually are made within two weeks.

Students who are transferring from other institutions may visit the University of Pittsburgh transfer Web site at [www.oafa.pitt.edu/transadm.aspx](http://www.oafa.pitt.edu/transadm.aspx) for more detailed information.

Above: **Prashant Krishnamurthy**, associate professor, and **Thair Hayajneh**, student at the iSchool at Pitt

## Contact Us

To schedule a visit, please contact our student recruitment coordinator at [ising@sis.pitt.edu](mailto:ising@sis.pitt.edu), 412-624-3988, or 1-800-672-9435.



# University of Pittsburgh

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