

# Degree Programs at the School of Information Sciences

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At the School of Information Sciences (the iSchool), curriculum and research activities are focused on people, their information needs, and the technology to manage such information. It is estimated that the amount of information available for human use doubles every three years. As society enjoys an escalating amount of available information, corporations and organizations need highly trained professionals to manage information and access.

For more than 100 years, the iSchool has educated students to become leaders in the information professions. They may work in libraries and archives, companies and manufacturing industries, or governments and nonprofits. They may work with books, artifacts, digital documents, routers, networks, or databases. They solve problems in the boardroom, the operating room, or the schoolroom. They have a set of skills and the theoretical knowledge to harness the power of this influential resource, information.

The iSchool offers degree programs in Information Science, Library and Information Science, and Telecommunications.

## **The Bachelor of Science in Information Science Program**

The undergraduate program is an upper-division program, which means that students can enroll at the School after earning 55 credits in Arts & Sciences. The curriculum provides critical skills and broad theoretical knowledge in programming principles, database systems, networks, human-computer interaction, and systems design. The program offers a chance to focus on one of three industry-centered specializations: information systems, user-centered design, and networks and security. Or, students may self-design a major. Students are required to participate in a capstone experience such as an internship with a regional company. With the University located in a major urban environment, students may find internship opportunities with healthcare entities, manufacturing companies, and technology-related corporations. Degree offered: BSIS

## **The Graduate Information Science & Technology Program**

The Graduate Information Science and Technology Program hosts degree programs leading to the Master's and PhD degrees, as well as a Certificate of Advanced Study. The program's educational programs provide students with deep knowledge of theoretical principles along with hands-on experience in storing and retrieving information, communicating information among systems, understanding the interaction between people and information systems, and comprehending the role of information systems and technologies in both business and society. Research endeavors cover geoinformatics and spatial information, adaptive hypermedia, decision systems, human factors and human-computer interactions, information retrieval, e-business and web services, distributed networks, and cyber infrastructure. Degrees offered: MSIS, PhD and Certificate of Advanced Study

### **The Library & Information Science Program**

For more than 100 years, Pitt has been offering degrees in Library and Information Science. Students can now earn their Master's and PhD degrees, as well as a Certificate of Advanced Study in Health Sciences Librarianship. Our Library and Information Science Program provides students with essential foundational knowledge and the practical skills necessary for success as information professionals in libraries, archival facilities, healthcare organizations, multinational corporations, museums and other cultural institutions, and technology firms. The School offers one of the most recognized programs in the nation -- our Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree is accredited by the American Library Association (ALA). The program is routinely ranked among the top ten LIS programs by U.S. News & World Report and many of the specializations are highly-ranked as well. The School also offers an online version of the MLIS degree program, now called MLIS: Pitt Online. The PhD program prepares students for advanced work in research, teaching, and administration at major research universities, teaching institutions, and library systems. Research areas include School libraries, Children and youth library services and literacy, archives and preservation management, health information management, information retrieval and natural-language processing, social information tools, and open-source computing. Degrees offered: MLIS, PhD and Certificate of Advanced Study

### **The Telecommunications & Networking Program**

The Telecommunications and Networking Program offers degree programs leading to the Master's and PhD degrees as well as the Certificate of Advanced Study. The academic offerings cover leading edge topics such as application development for mobile devices, intelligent networks, distributed multi-media systems, and network security and cryptography. Research foci include wireless and network security, wireless system design, network design, policy and management, network security and survivability, and multimedia environments and networks. Students have the opportunity to take courses and do research with world class faculty, many of whom conduct research projects funded by prestigious organizations such as the National Science Foundation. The faculty believe that research and teaching must be closely linked, so that future researchers and teachers will gain critical experience in development and research techniques. Students in both the Master's and PhD programs may participate in federally-funded in research programs. Degrees offered: MST, PhD and Certificate of Advanced Study