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## The Master of Science in Information Systems Degree

The Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) program at Morehead State University is designed for persons who have completed undergraduate degree programs in any discipline from an accredited institution and wish to receive additional training in information systems. It is intended to meet the need for information systems leaders and innovators in a broad range of disciplines including business, education, government, healthcare, science, and the arts. The MSIS program is about more than technology. It's understanding how to use technology to create better products and services, to operate more effectively, and to innovate to meet customers' needs.

The innovative MSIS program provides an inter-disciplinary approach to preparing graduates with expertise in information systems. The program structure allows students to choose career electives based on their individual career goals. The program requires 36 semester credit hours of graduate course work (excluding any prerequisite requirements) in four component areas: information systems core, support area of the student's choosing, information systems technical course work, and an integrative capstone. The program provides a balance of practical application and theoretical concepts, helping students develop technical, organizational, and discipline specific knowledge and skills. The program prepares IS professionals to respond to the changing needs of the global economy. It supports regional and state initiatives to build a high tech infrastructure and work force.

## Applying for Admission

Admission into the MSIS program requires completion of all of the following steps:

1. General Admission to graduate study; exception: minimum GPA 2.75 required.
2. Admission is determined by an admission index, computed as follows:  $\text{Index} = (\text{undergraduate GPA} \times 291) + (\text{composite verbal and quantitative GRE score.})$  The index score must equal at least 1600 for admission. (The minimum individual scores allowed for consideration of admission, and computing of the admissions index, is 550 for the composite (verbal and quantitative) GRE or an undergraduate GPA of 2.75). If a student has earned a Master's degree from a regionally accredited institution, the GRE is not required. GMAT may be accepted in place of the GRE. The admission index with the GMAT is computed as follows:  $\text{Index} = (\text{undergraduate GPA} \times 200) + \text{GMAT score}$ . The index must equal at least 1000.
3. A portfolio is required which contains: (1) two letters of recommendation from professionals familiar with the applicant's academic and/or work experience; (2) a one-page statement outlining the student's career goals and objectives as related to the program; and (3) documentation that addresses achievement of each of the prerequisite competencies.
4. It is strongly recommended students have at least two years of work experience in IS or in their chosen specialty before admission.
5. **Applications Deadlines:** Spring semester application materials must be postmarked no later than December 1. Fall semester application materials must be postmarked no later than August 1. Summer semester application materials must be postmarked no later than April 15.

## Applying for Admission (*continued*)

### Other Admission Information

Students may be conditionally admitted to the MSIS program. Conditionally admitted students may only take prerequisite component courses and must have met general admission to graduate study requirements. Once a student has completed the prerequisite requirements, he or she will be unconditionally admitted if all other admission requirements are satisfied. You may request a copy of the current Morehead State University Catalog from the Office of Graduate Programs or you may view a copy online at [www.moreheadstate.edu/msis](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/msis). You will need an Adobe Acrobat Reader to view this information online.

### International Students

International students must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL.) A score of 525 on this test is required for program admission. Students scoring between 525 and 550 are required to complete ENG 100—Writing I, and CMSP 108—Fundamentals of Speech Communication. International residence students are required by INS regulations to be enrolled in a minimum of six hours of on-campus classroom courses each semester. For more information contact MSU's Office of International Education: Dr. Robert Frank, Associate Dean, [r.frank@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:r.frank@moreheadstate.edu), 606-783-2096; or Ms. Pamela Jaisingh, International Studies Director, [p.jaisingh@moreheadstate.edu](mailto:p.jaisingh@moreheadstate.edu), 606-783-2096. Deadlines for International Students are May 1 for the fall semester and October 1 for the spring semester. Deadline: May 1 for the fall semester and October 1 for the spring semester.

### Assistantships Available

A number of assistantships are offered each year for students who have been unconditionally admitted to the MSIS program. These assistantships provide a stipend of \$6,000 for the academic year. A graduate assistant must be a full-time student working on a degree program. The students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and register for at least 9 graduate credit hours, but no more than 12 hours each semester. The student is expected to devote 20 hours a week to the duties of the full assistantship. All recipients must pay the regular Kentucky resident tuition and incidental fees. This award entitles you to free University housing. The free housing rate will be based on a double occupancy residence hall room in Fields Hall. Contact the MSIS program director for information about available assistantships. The Office of Graduate Programs reviews all credentials of the nominees and notifies the department and the candidates of their acceptance status. International students who accept graduate assistantships must apply for and receive a Social Security card before they can be paid. Representatives from the Ashland Social Security Office visit the Rowan County Court House the third Wednesday of each month. See the graduate school Web site for more information about assistantships and financial aid [[www.moreheadstate.edu/graduate](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/graduate)].

## MSU Quick Reference Departmental Directory

Call MSU Toll Free — 1-800-585-6871

#### Accounting & Budgetary Control

606-783-2019  
Payment of Fees

#### Financial Aid

606-783-2011  
Student Loans

#### Registrar

606-783-2008  
Grades, Transcripts

#### Assistantship Info

[www.moreheadstate.edu/graduate](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/graduate)

#### Office of Graduate Programs

606-783-2039  
Admissions

#### Student Telecommunications

606-783-9000  
Web PIN, email

#### Distance Learning

606-783-2082  
Technical Assistance

#### MSIS Program Info

606-783-2724 or  
606-783-2174

#### University Bookstore

1-888-786-7305  
Textbook Information

## MSIS Program Curriculum—Prerequisites

### Required prerequisite competencies include:

- Concepts of IS in Organizations (most college level foundations courses in management information systems would satisfy this requirement). Suggested coursework to meet a deficiency in this area would be CIS 615 [Managing Information Technology].
- Fundamentals of PC hardware, software applications, and networking (most college level courses in PC Applications and Basic Networking [e.g., LAN, Telecommunications] would satisfy this requirement). Suggested coursework to meet a deficiency in this area would be CIS 632 [Computer Productivity Tools] and CIS 634 [Management of Telecommunications and Networking].
- Undergraduate foundation in mathematics and statistics (most college level courses in College Algebra, Statistics, Programming Logic & Design, or Intro. To Computer Science, would satisfy this requirement). Suggested coursework to meet a deficiency in this area would be MNGT/FIN 602 [Survey of Quantitative and Financial Analysis].
- Expertise in at least one of the following IS areas: Systems Analysis and Design, Networking and Systems Administration, Database Design and Management, Web Development, Advanced Discipline Specific Applications, Programming, Graphics, Multimedia and Desktop Publishing, Knowledge Management and Information Architectures, or IS Management and Decision Making. Expertise can be shown either through appropriate coursework at an undergraduate or graduate level from an accredited college or university, or through relevant work experience and/or industry-standard certifications or training.

*Note: None of the graduate level survey courses (CIS 615, CIS 632, CIS 634, or MNGT/FIN 602) satisfy the requirements of the 36 hour MSIS program. They are prerequisite courses only.*

## MSIS Program Curriculum—Requirements for the Degree

**I. IS CORE COMPONENT (12 Hours)** The following coursework is required by all students in the program:

BIS 640 Research Strategies for Information Systems	(3 Hours)
CIS 640 Systems Planning and Implementation	(3 Hours)
CIS 650 Innovation, Technology & Organizational Change	(3 Hours)
CIS 636 Global Information Systems	(3 Hours)

### II. SUPPORT AREA COMPONENT (6-9 Hours)\*

The support area component is based on individual career goals; students select 6-9 elective graduate credit hours from their career areas, to be approved by their advisors. For example, electives might be within or spread among the following areas: Government, Healthcare, Sciences, Business, Education, Industrial Engineering, The Arts, Math, and Communications.

### III. IS TECHNICAL COMPONENT (12 Hours)

CIS 625 Web Information Systems & Internet Technologies	BIS 698 Advanced Supervised Field Experience
CIS 628 E-Business Application Programming	CIS 699 Proposed Workshop Topics (e.g., Collaborative Technologies, Advanced Networking and Wireless, Knowledge Management, Advances in ERP, Internet Programming, Systems Analysis and Design, Data Warehousing/Data Mining, Advanced Project Mngt, Expert Systems, HIPAA & IT Standards, Medical Informatics, Supply Chain Mngt, Human Computer Interaction, Strategic IS, Decision Support Systems, Cryptography, Digital Media, Advances in ABAP Programming Tools, Web Server Administration, Performance Improvement Technologies)
CIS 635 Seminar in Information Systems	
CIS 638 Database Systems Design Implementation & Mngt.	
CIS 642 Systems Security	
CIS 645 Customer Relationship Management Systems	
CIS 670 Directed Research	
MSIS 660 Data Warehousing and Data Mining-NKU+	
MSIS 675 Enterprise Workflow Design & Reengineering-NKU+	
+MSIS courses offered through Northern Kentucky University	

### IV. INTEGRATIVE COMPONENT (3-6 Hours)\*\*

#### Thesis Option:

BIS 699 Thesis (6 credit hours)

*\*6 Hours for thesis option and 9 hours for non-thesis option.*

*\*\*6 hours for thesis option and 3 hours for non-thesis option*

#### Non-Thesis Option:

CIS 690 IS Team Project (3 credit hours)

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How does the Admissions process work?

It may take as little as two weeks for an application to be processed or as long as two months, depending upon submission of official transcripts, GRE/GMAT scores, portfolio, etc. The Graduate Office will notify the student in writing when he or she has been admitted to graduate studies. You will also receive information from the MSIS Program Director outlining your next steps in the program.

### What is the course delivery mode?

This MSIS program is open to both full and part-time students. Designed to meet the needs of working professionals as well as full-time graduate students, the program offers a flexible scheduling format that combines both online and traditional campus lecture classes. Courses are scheduled in both full semester and 8-week blocks. Most campus sessions use a hybrid format combining online instruction with Saturday or evening campus seminars. Campus sessions also may be carried through Interactive TV to Ashland, Prestonsburg, West Liberty or Mount Sterling depending on demand.

### How many courses can I take per semester?

The minimum full-time load for a semester is nine hours; for each summer term, it is three semester hours. The maximum load is 15 hours for a semester and six hours for each summer term. Half-time status is four hours for the fall and spring semesters. A graduate assistant may not exceed 12 semester hours credit during a regular semester or four semester hours during a summer term.

### How long does it take to complete the MSIS degree?

Full-time students can complete the MSIS degree in three academic semesters by taking 12 hours per semester or in four academic semesters by taking nine hours per semester, which roughly equals one and a half to two calendar years. Most of the students in MSU's MSIS program attend on a part-time basis and generally earn their degrees in 3-4 years.

### Can I earn the MSIS degree concurrently with another master's degree at MSU?

It is possible to earn two master's degrees concurrently at MSU. For example, many of our students combine an MBA with the MSIS degree; the integrative nature of the MSIS program lends itself nicely to dual degree candidates. However, presently it is not possible to graduate with both degrees during the same semester at MSU. To earn two master's degrees at MSU concurrently, the second degree must contain a minimum of 15 semester credit hours of additional coursework after completion of the first master's degree. The requirements for both programs must be fully met. In many cases, particularly for degrees outside the College of Business, the number of additional credit hours beyond MSIS degree requirements may be more than 15. If you desire concurrent master's degree's from MSU, check with your advisors in each master's program and the Graduate Office to help you determine the total number of credit hours, course timing and program structure to ensure you are fulfilling all requirements for your desired MSU degrees.

#### **Dr. Donna Kizzier, MSIS Program Director**

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Fax: 606-783-5025

#### **Ms. Sheila Barber, Secretary Specialist**

Dean's Office  
s.barber@moreheadstate.edu  
Phone: 606-783-2174

Please remember to visit our Web site ([www.moreheadstate.edu/msis](http://www.moreheadstate.edu/msis)) for more information about the MSIS program. Given the rapid changes in technology, our Web site is the most effective way to provide you with up-to-date information about what's happening in our program. Sign on to our MSIS listserv if you would like to receive program news via email.

*MSU is an affirmative action, equal opportunity, educational institution.*