Why Information Sciences and Technology?

Technology has dramatically changed the way people interact and solve problems. These changes raise interesting research questions that can be addressed by integrating disciplines from economics, to psychology, to cyber-security, and bringing together a variety of perspectives to study the relationship between information, technology, and people.

The College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) at Penn State University offers a multi-disciplinary graduate program that produces well-rounded scholars who are poised to address the complex issues that technology has created in our society.

Just as business careers and MBAs gained popularity during the industrial age, information scientists and professionals are now in high demand, as businesses and society grapple with the challenges and opportunities of the digital age. Our graduates are employed by research universities, as well as software companies like Google and IBM; they conduct research in areas such as medical informatics, human-centered design, technology-mediated crisis response, and information security and privacy.

IST is a Diverse Program

The development of critical thought is a cornerstone of IST and of the University, and critical thought depends on demographic and cultural diversity. Penn State’s Senior Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School defines diversity as “a climate which encourages representation of faculty, staff, and students from typically underrepresented entities, including those from racial/ethnic minority groups, various countries and cultures, genders, persons with disabilities, and those from a mixture of religions and sexual orientations.” IST embraces diversity across many dimensions, including national culture, gender, ethnicity, and scientific disciplines.

Research Opportunities

IST conducts millions of dollars in funded research each year for industry, the government, and non-profit organizations. Our students and faculty conduct research in areas such as Web technologies, extreme events systems and response, the global use of technology, collaborative work by distributed teams, and change in the culture of work and education. IST also benefits from the research infrastructure and support of Penn State, a Research I University that conducts over $750 million in research annually.

COLLEGE OF IST GRADUATE PROGRAMS
Penn State College of Information Sciences and Technology

RESEARCH CENTERS

- Center for Cyber-Security, Information Privacy, and Trust (The LIONS Center)
- Center for Human-Computer Interaction
- Center for Enterprise Architecture
- Network-Centric Cognition and Information Fusion Center

RESEARCH LABORATORIES

- Applied Cognitive Science Laboratory
- Collaboratory for Socio-Technical Scientists (CSTS)
- Cyber Security Laboratory
- Intelligence Information Systems Laboratory
- Laboratory for Computer-Supported Collaboration and Learning
- Laboratory for Intelligent Agents
- Spatial Information Laboratory
- User Science and Engineering (USE) Laboratory
Faculty Mentors

Your IST career will be guided by our college's exceptional faculty. One or more of our faculty members are research leaders in their fields and have substantial experience as leaders in industry and government.

We have over 40 graduate faculty members in IST, including:
- 1 ACM CHI Lifetime Achievement recipient
- 4 IEEE Fellows
- 2 ACM Fellows
- 8 NSF Presidential/Young Investigators/CAREER recipients
- 3 Fulbright Chairs

In addition to the IST faculty members, our graduate students and researchers collaborate with 14 affiliated faculty from Computer Science and Engineering, Business Administration, Industrial Engineering, Anthropology, English, Chemistry, Psychology, Geography, Public Administration, Chemical Engineering and Math.

Our Alumni are Making an Impact

Alumni of IST’s graduate programs are emerging to become thought leaders in the academic world and in leading corporate and government laboratories.

Among our graduates are tenure-track assistant professors at Harvard and Columbia Universities. Others are joining well-known organizations such as the Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), GE Research, Bloomberg, IBM, Yahoo! Research, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ph.D. Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core courses</th>
<th>IST 501; 510; 520; 530</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate colloquium</td>
<td>Two semesters of IST 590 (2 credits).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research methodology</td>
<td>Chosen to complement research area (12 credits).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support area courses</td>
<td>Focus technical area (12 credits) – specific courses approved by the student’s adviser to form a focus or theme.</td>
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M.S. Course Requirements

| Core courses | IST 501; 511; 512; 521; 522; 531; 532 (choice of 3) |
| Research methodology | a course complementing research area (3 credits). |
| Support area courses | Focus technical area (12 credits for Thesis; 15 credits for Project) – specific courses approved by the student’s adviser to form a focus or theme. |
| Research credits | IST 600 (6 credits for Thesis); IST 594 (3 credits for Project) |

Fellowships

A number of fellowship opportunities are available for IST applicants. Some of these are available only to entering students, while other opportunities emerge during your study. Most of these awards are made on the basis of academic achievement.

Summer Internship

Graduate students in IST can earn wages for conducting on-campus research over the summer or they may go on a paid internship. Internships are available at top companies such as Google, Microsoft Research, IBM Research, and Sony Electronics.

For More Information, Contact

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