



What Can I Do With A Major In INFORMATION SYSTEMS?

This handout will provide a brief introduction to possible careers in information systems. For further information, students are encouraged to review the appendix at the end of this handout.

The Information Systems Major at KU:

The curriculum is designed to give students both a broad liberal arts background and a strong professional education. You'll gain a solid foundation in the various business disciplines and gain an understanding of the effective use of information technology in business or other organizational settings. Specialized course work includes introductory programming, database management, and system analysis and design. You'll also study computer networking, project management in an information technology environment, and information security. We encourage you to participate in field trips, experiential learning activities, and to develop your leadership skills through student organizations like the Information Systems Association of KU (ISAK).

Career Paths in Information Systems:

Information Systems (also termed Information Technology by some) is a dynamic career field focused on the employment of various information technologies in ways that help achieve the strategic goals and operational objectives of businesses or other organizations. Information technologies have increasingly become woven into the fabric of the most value adding processes in organizations, creating a demand for skilled individuals who can think in terms of the company's business, technology, and organizational or "people" strategies in a way that ensures each is aligned with and reinforcing of the other two.

An information systems graduate will possess the skills and insights needed to understand both business processes and the technologies available to support them. Success in information systems in businesses or other entities and, therefore, in the information systems major requires analytical skills, logic and creativity, as well as excellent interpersonal and communication abilities.

Primary Areas of Employment for Information Systems Majors:

Opportunities for employment in the information systems/information technology career field are many and varied. Virtually every organization, businesses in all industries, government entities, or not-for-profit groups, depends to some degree on information technology and, as a result, adds to the aggregate demand for information systems professionals. Some positions are more technical than analytical, and some organizations choose to place entry level employees in these sorts of positions to "learn the ropes."

In other cases, companies will place the new team member in a business or process analyst role under the supervision of a veteran manager. Consulting firms, expert in providing information systems-related solutions to their clients, are another likely area of employment for an information systems graduate. Whatever the role and whatever the specific technology involved, the focus will be on the value-adding integration of information technology into the business or other organization.

General Tips for students considering a major or career in Information Systems:

- Get experience through an internship or other relevant part-time or summer work.
- Conduct informational discussions with individuals from industry. The Alumni Directories in the BCSC provide a great place to start.
- Participate in a job shadowing experience through Jayhawks on the Job or a company visit through an End of Week Excursion. Both are programs coordinated through the BCSC.
- Attend the Accounting/Information Systems/Consulting Career Roundtable and Business Career Fair events each September to talk with hiring organizations and industry representatives from Marketing.



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- Join the Information Systems Association of KU (or ISAK) or other student organizations that provide a means to learn more about companies and career opportunities.
- Seek leadership opportunities on campus. Build and polish skills through active participation.
- Engage in personal networking to enhance employment prospects.
- Seek exposure to as many technologies as possible, even at a familiarization rather than proficiency level.
- Develop personal skills including: customer focus, problem solving, self-direction, team orientation, analysis, and research.

Companies Recruiting Information Systems majors at KU include: *

- Cerner Corporation
- C.H. Robinson Worldwide
- Deloitte Consulting
- Ernst & Young
- Grant Thornton
- Koch Industries
- KPMG
- Liberty Mutual Group
- Navigant consulting
- Perceptive Software
- Pioneer Services
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Sprint-Nextel

** Companies listed reflect organizations running formal on-campus recruiting schedules for IS majors in the Business Career Services Center during the 2008-2009 and 2007-2008 academic years. Data does not include companies attending the career fair, companies posting jobs and internships through KU Career Connections, or companies hiring recent KU finance grads through student-initiated efforts.*

Salary Data for KU Information Systems Graduates:

- **Range:** \$36,000-58,000 (2008-09) and \$40,000-65,000 (2007-08)
- **Average Salary:** \$47,666 (2008-09) and \$51,700 (2007-08)
- **Median Salary:** \$48,250 (2008-09) and \$52,000 (2007-08)
- **% of Students Seeking Employment who Accepted an Offer by Graduation:** 50% (2008-09) and 54% (2007-2008)



APPENDIX

For further information, students are encouraged to review the following resources:

Web sites:

- www.isjobs.com – Portal to multiple sites
- www.aisnet.org – Association for Information Systems
- www.simnet.org – Society of Information Management
- <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.htm> – Occupational Outlook Handbook, providing employment projections from the US Department of Labor on a range of careers in marketing.
- www.salary.com – Compensation information for various positions in information systems

Career Resources available through the Business Career Services Center:

Wet Feet and Vault are FREE online career libraries, enabling students to access up-to-date career information via the web, 24/7. Both libraries include company guides, industry guides, career guides, message boards, and more! Access Vault and Wet Feet through the Business Career Services Center website at www.business.ku.edu/bcsc

- Wet Feet – Available to UNDERGRADUATE Business students. www.business.ku.edu/wetfeet Username is “kansas”, password is “jayhawk”.
- Vault – Available to GRADUATE Business students. Password is “jayhawk”

CareerLeader-College:

CareerLeader-College is an integrated approach to business career self-assessment. The self-directed web-based career tool was developed at Harvard and is used by top business schools globally to help students guide their careers. Students may set up a *CareerLeader-College* account in the BCSC for \$20 (the amount BCSC pays to obtain an individual license from the vendor). Students completing the online assessment will receive individualized printable reports for the following:

- Business Career Interest Inventory – defining your career INTERESTS
- Management & Professional Reward Profile – focusing your career VALUES and REWARDS
- Management & Professional Abilities Profile – thinking about your business SKILLS and the implications of your strengths and weaknesses for different business career paths

CareerLeader-College also provides Industry Sketches, describing all major business industries in detail, who the major corporations are, what they do, how they operate, and what kinds of business career paths they offer.

For additional information on careers in Information Systems, see the Business Career Services Center in 125 Summerfield.

For information regarding degree requirements for the Information Systems major, visit the Student & Academic Services Office in 206 Summerfield.

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