Position Yourself for Career Success at
L.A.’s Business College

Cal State L.A.’s Master of Science in Information Systems degree program (MSIS) is designed for the needs of working professionals who are interested in senior consulting, project management and professional positions in IS/IT and user organizations. The Professional track is designed for current IS/IT professionals. The Executive track provides a career change path for working managers and professionals.

The newly-structured program provides all of the features of a full-time program on a convenient year-round evening schedule (6:10 to 10 p.m., Monday - Thursday).

The decision to pursue an MSIS degree at Cal State L.A. is a step forward into a selective, and rewarding career path. This Master’s degree positions graduates for higher achievement in life, both professionally and personally.

Cal State L.A.’s MSIS Advantage

• Most cutting-edge program in the Los Angeles area
• Globally-focused and technology-based program
• Faculty who combine their stellar academic credentials with real-world business experience
• Accredited by AACSB International
• Relevant, real-world orientation
• Highly diverse student body
• Convenient location
• Full- or part-time options
• Tailored programs for working professionals, and full-time students
• Great value – well-rounded experience with the lower tuition costs
• Evening classes starting at 6:10 pm for working students

AACSB Accreditation

AACSB accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. Being AACSB-accredited means a business school is able to continuously pass a strict set of standards that ensure quality.

Program Overview

Cal State L.A.’s MSIS program is designed to create IS/IT professionals that have the background needed to advance to senior planning, consulting and project management positions.

Professional Option

The MSIS, Professional Option (PMISIS) is designed for managers and professionals working in the business information systems field. The option offers professionals the background knowledge needed to move into today’s challenging senior planning, consulting, and project management positions.

Executive Option

The MSIS Executive Option is designed for working executives, managers, and professionals who are interested in a career redirection, or change into the business information systems/technology field. It is designed to provide persons currently employed in business and other types of organizations in management and operations positions, the education needed to obtain the professional and managerial knowledge and skill needed for senior level positions. These positions may be found in information systems/information technology (IS/IT) user and support organizations, as such: consulting, user management, development planning and management, and data center operations.

Applicants are required to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited university, at least three years’ professional level experience, and an interest in a career in IS/IT. A basic knowledge of business operations is a prerequisite for admission to graduate courses.

The MSIS Curriculum

A total of 45-48 units of 500 level courses and a master comprehensive examination are required. Most students complete the program in two years.

Required Core Courses (12 units)

CIS 504 Management Information Systems (4)
CIS 585 Communication and Information Services (4)
CIS 590 IS/IT Policy and Strategy (4)

Masters Comprehensive Examination (0 units)
Students must demonstrate their integrative and interdisciplinary business capabilities by satisfactorily completing BUS 596, Comprehensive Examination.

Required Professional Option Courses (33 units)
A total of 33 units of 500-level courses are required.

Required Courses (9 units)
CIS 510 IS/IT Architecture (4)
CIS 520 Software Engineering (4)
CIS 598 Graduate Directed Study (1)

Electives (24 Units)
Select 24 units (six courses) with prior graduate adviser approval.

Required Executive Option Courses (36 units)
A total of 48 units of 500-level courses are required.

Required Courses (12 units)
CIS 501 Application Programming (4)
CIS 502 Analysis and Logical Design I: Data/Object Structure (4)
CIS 503Z Analysis and Logical Design II: Methodology (4)

Electives (24 units)
Select 24 units (six courses) with prior graduate adviser approval.

Executive Option

In agreement with their graduate adviser, MSIS candidates select graduate level elective courses. Typical elective courses include:

CIS 527 Decision Support Systems
Analysis of the tools needed to mine data from data warehouses, from the Web, and from commercial information services; experience in downloading the data into PC packages and in producing multi-media presentations from the data.

CIS 543 Database Systems
Database concepts, comparison of relational and object-oriented models, unified modeling language for databases; principles of data warehousing, database administration and development tools, case study in database design.

CIS 560 Microcomputer Networks
Recent developments and trends in data and voice communication-oriented hardware, software, and architectures. Design, installation, and systems management of distributed systems.

CIS 561 Design of an E-Commerce Site
Analysis, development, and design of a web-based e-commerce site model for an actual business. Course includes a hands-on project incorporating Web design, electronic transfer processing, and site development/maintenance.

CIS 562 Authoring Websites
Design of websites based on visual, color, content, animation, and hierarchical elements. Tailoring format and writing for the specific audience, purpose, and media. Incorporating interactivity to enhance understanding and usability.

CIS 567 Knowledge Systems
Analysis, design, implementation, management, and use of decision support and expert systems and their impact on how organizations operate. Hands-on development of a decision support/expert systems model.

CIS 583 Information Systems Consulting
Approaches and tools for consulting to the modern information-age organization. Presentation of the results of actual consulting projects. Student case study presentations.

CIS 584 Controlling and Auditing Information Systems
Controlling and auditing mission-critical computer and communication-based systems. Challenges to management, information systems, and auditors.

CIS 586 Project and Change Management
Organizational, behavioral and life-cycle aspects of the project planning, staffing, control, and implementation elements of technology-based systems.

Elective Courses
Admission Process

Admission to the MSIS program (and all graduate programs in the College of Business and Economics) is a two-step process. Students must first be admitted to the University and then must satisfy the College of Business and Economics’ requirements for admission to the graduate programs.

For admission to the University, applicants must have:
• Applied to the University (official CSU application)
• A baccalaureate from an accredited institution, or equivalent academic preparation as determined by Admissions or appropriate campus authority.
• Two copies of official transcripts, which must include verification of the bachelor’s degree.
• A grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 (4.0=A) in most recent 90 quarter (or 60 semester) units attempted and good standing at the last college attended.
• A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 213 (computer version) or 550 (paper version) for those applicants who earned a bachelor’s degree at a school where English was not the principal language of instruction.

For additional information about admission to the University, applicants should contact Admissions at (323) 343-3901 or e-mail admission@calstatela.edu.

In addition to University admission requirements, applicants to graduate programs in the College of Business and Economics must submit the following:
• A separate graduate program application to the College of Business and Economics. For the Graduate Program application, please go to the web page at http://cbe.calstatela.edu/GradProg/admis.php
• A minimum Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) score of 500 is required. Applications for the MSIS program (and all graduate programs) are accepted throughout the year and admission decisions are made on a rolling basis.
• Three letters of recommendation from individuals who can attest to the applicant’s ability to pursue graduate studies. References from employers and faculty members are acceptable.
• Detailed resume or curriculum vitae showing the applicant’s work experience (two or more years full time).
• A Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of at least 213 (computer version) or 550 (paper version) for those applicants who earned a bachelor’s degree at a school where English was not the principal language of instruction.

The College examines each candidate’s potential, taking into consideration all academic work experience, level of responsibility, and other factors that may have a bearing on the individual’s potential for success. Applicants are evaluated on the merits in comparison to all other applicants for the quarter.

Student Self Checklist

Apply at CSU Mentor at www.csumentor.edu for the quarter you wish to start. Check the web page at www.calstatela.edu/univ/admiss/deadlines.php for the application deadlines. Make sure you meet the minimum requirements, i.e. GPA 2.5 and TOEFL 550, if you are an international applicant.

Once you have finished the online process for CSULA, submit your complete application package to the College of Business and Economics Advisement Center by mail (see contact information). The list of documents needed in the package includes:
• Official transcript(s) from all universities attended
• Graduate Program application (downloadable MS word file)
• Entry Essay (questions found in the Graduate Program application)
• Three recommendation forms/letters (from previous professors or supervisors)
• Resume
• Official GMAT Score (College Code 4399)

Please indicate the quarter you are applying for in all documents that you submit.

Please Note:
• Applicants with an incomplete application package will NOT be admitted.
• Applicants without a GMAT Score will NOT be permitted to take graduate-level courses.

Application Filing Periods

For the latest information about deadlines for the Graduate Program, please refer to the Cal State L.A. web page at www.calstatela.edu/univ/admiss/deadlines.php

Cost

For fee information, please refer to CSULA University web page at www.calstatela.edu/univ/sfiserv/feepay.php for the latest information.

International (visa) Students

International (visa) applicants seeking entry into the United States on the basis of acceptance by Cal State L.A. must file a special international student application (available from the Admissions and University Outreach Office), in addition to the College of Business and Economics application, at least six months before the quarter they wish to begin their studies. For assistance in resolving admission problems and complying with regulations governing the entry of international students, applicants should contact International Student Services, (323) 343-3170.

For the International Application, please go to the web page at www.csumentor.edu/admissionapp/intl_apply.asp

Contact Information:

General Information:
(323) 343-5156
Facsimile: (323) 343-5480
http://cbe.calstatela.edu
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES
College of Business and Economics
Advisement Center–Graduate Programs, SH256B
5151 State University Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90032-8120

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