

Business Information Systems

www.goshen.edu/business

Goshen College is a liberal arts college dedicated to the development of informed, articulate, sensitive, responsible Christians.

Why study business information systems at Goshen College?

As a business information systems (BIS) student at Goshen College you will learn to utilize the computer as a business tool. Modeled after a curriculum endorsed by major professional associations, the BIS program at GC is a dynamic field of study that combines the best of a liberal arts education, a solid grounding in business fundamentals and an array of technology courses. The program is designed to give you both a solid base of knowledge that will be useful throughout your careers as well as hands-on experience with current technologies and practice.

Many entry-level positions are currently available in the information systems field. In fact, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 6 out of the 10 fastest growing jobs through 2014 requiring a bachelor's degree will be in information systems-related areas. Employers aggressively seek out and hire persons able to combine information systems and business skills.

Academic excellence

- **National recognition:** Goshen is nationally recognized by sources such as *U.S. News & World Report*, *Barron's Best Buys in College Education*, *Peterson's Competitive Colleges* and *Top Colleges for Science* and *The 100 Best Colleges for African-American Students*.
- Goshen's business professors bring solid academic preparation and real-world experience to their teaching. In addition to being highly accessible, many have either worked in related fields, owned their own business, or are currently involved in consulting or business activities.

Suggested plan of study

Goshen College offers a **major** and a **minor** in **business information systems**. The BIS major includes courses in project management, systems analysis, software applications, information systems theory and design, networking and hardware concepts, database systems and basic programming. In addition, a set of core business courses provides you with a strong foundation so you can understand the information needs of an organization and help design solutions to the challenges faced by clients or coworkers.

The following is an example of a four-year schedule for a business information systems major. For more information on this and other majors, view the course catalog online at www.goshen.edu/catalog/.

First year

Office Software Productivity
Mathematics
Principles of Accounting I
Principles of Economics
Introduction to Business Programming

Second year

Principles of Economics
Principles of Accounting II
Introduction to Information Systems
Introduction to Statistics
Hardware & Networks
SST

Third year

Systems Analysis and Design
Database Management Systems
Programming Techniques
Principles of Management
Business Career Planning

Fourth year

Project Management
Web Application Development
Management Policy and Social Responsibility
Internship

Outcomes

- As noted earlier, demand is high for information systems graduates. Graduates of the BIS program can be found working in a variety of large and small organizations across the country. Recent graduates can be found working at recognized names such as Whirlpool, Microsoft, Target and the University of Michigan.
- **Graduate study:** Goshen College business students often pursue advanced degrees at some of the country's top graduate schools.

Excellent facilities

Goshen College's on-campus facilities provide excellent resources for business students.

- **General computing facilities:** Goshen College provides excellent computer facilities with up-to-date hardware and software in the Schertz Computer Center and in various locations across campus. In addition to lightning-fast wired network speeds, the main campus is also covered by a wireless network.
- **Specialized computer resources:** In addition to these campus-wide resources, you, as a BIS student, have access to a special computer classroom/lab equipped with a variety of hardware and special software, including software such as Oracle's enterprise-duty database software. The BIS program also participates in Microsoft's Academic Alliance program, which gives BIS students access to numerous software programs at minimal or no cost.

Opportunities to work closely with faculty

You can interact personally with the business faculty in classes and research activities.

- The student-faculty ratio is 12:1, giving you the opportunity to work one-on-one with your professors.
- Many faculty members hire student assistants to help grade papers and prepare lessons.
- Work as a lab assistant, getting hands-on experience helping to maintain the BIS computer classroom/laboratory.
- Goshen College's unique Maple Scholars program challenges you to take your classroom learning to the next level. This summer research program, which is open to students from all majors, allows you to work with a professor to design and conduct your own cutting-edge research project. You would present your findings at Goshen's undergraduate research symposium and may be invited to present at national undergraduate conferences. Read more at www.goshen.edu/academics/maple_scholars.php.

Opportunities to gain experience

- **International experience:** Since information systems are international in scope, it is crucial that you as a business information systems major build a broad world view. This is encouraged at Goshen College through an international education requirement which is usually fulfilled by participating in Goshen's unique Study-Service Term. The SST semester helps you develop new understandings of the values, systems and beliefs in another culture. A recruiter from a national accounting firm has observed that Goshen seniors demonstrate more maturity because of their SST experience. You can also choose to fulfill this requirement through a series of classes on campus.
- **Internship experience:** As a business student, you will participate in an internship. The internship experience encompasses an entire semester, or is arranged for the summer months and gives you the opportunity to test classroom learning in a supervised work experience in an area of your interest. You will learn about real business issues, problem solving and interacting in a professional setting. Many internship experiences lead to permanent job opportunities.
- **Java Junction:** The Goshen College student-run coffee house, located on the first floor of the residence halls, provides a lab experience for you to practice what you've learned in the classroom. You'll be in charge of running the campus coffee house, from hiring barristas to managing catering jobs to balancing the books.
- **Christian values, real-world experience:** Goshen excels in helping you learn the professional skills sought after in today's marketplace, such as communication, critical thinking and ethics. But you will also be challenged to use your business competence and success in ways that reflect a Christian commitment. As you prepare for the business world, you will be challenged to put your faith into action, and be shown examples of how business can be a powerful way to make a positive impact on the world.

Faculty

Michelle E. Horning, M.S., C.P.A.; associate professor of accounting; B.A., Goshen College, 1991; M.S., Drexel University, 1995.

Jerrell Ross Richer, Ph.D.; associate professor of economics; B.A., Goshen College, 1985; M.A., 1988, Ph.D., 1991, University of California-Santa Barbara.

Russ J. Rupp, M.B.A., C.P.A.; professor of accounting; B.A., Goshen College, 1982; M.B.A., The University of Notre Dame, 1984.

Philip H. Rush, M.S.M.; associate professor of business information systems; B.A., Goshen College, 1985; M.S.M., University of Maryland, 2001.

Alan L. Weldy, J.D., M.B.A.; chair; associate professor of business; B.S., Goshen College, 1983; J.D., The University of Notre Dame, 1986; M.B.A., Indiana University-South Bend, 2002.

Tim L. Yoder, M.B.A.; associate professor of business information systems; B.A., Goshen College, 1988; M.B.A., Indiana University-South Bend, 1998.

Additional resources

Business department Web site: www.goshen.edu/business

Online course catalog: www.goshen.edu/catalog