Graduate Degree Programs

MSIS Program

**Overview**
The job of the IS (information systems) professional is to understand and improve the ways organizations derive value from information. IS professionals have a variety of roles and responsibilities. Business leaders (including Chief Information Officers) focus on ways to nurture and exploit information assets to gain competitive advantage in their industries. Technical practitioners focus on the specification, development, and deployment of new information-related capabilities.

The MSIS degree can ready you for a career path that suits your passions. If you are interested in technical practice, you can focus on areas such as software, networking, security, and databases. If you are interested in information strategy, you can learn how to enhance competitiveness through smarter and faster decision making, improved productivity, and process integration with business partners.

**Core Business Prerequisite Courses**
Students complete the following prerequisite courses as part of the MSIS program. If you have taken these courses before at an AACSB accredited school and earned a B or better in the last five years, you may be able to waive these courses with the approval of your advisor.

- BA 640 Financial Reporting and Analysis
- BA 642 Statistical Analysis
- BA 644 Operations and Supply Chain Management

**Required Classes**
Select three IS Technology courses from below:
- MIS 686: Enterprise Data Management
- MIS 687: Business Data Communications
- MIS 691: Decision Support Systems
- MIS 695: Business Systems Analysis and Design
- MIS 697: Project Planning and Development

*As of March 17, 2023*
Select three IS Management and Analytics courses from below:
- MIS 688: Information Systems and Strategies in organizations
- MIS 649: Business Analytics
- MIS 748: Time Series Analysis for Business Forecasting
- MIS 750: Strategic Project Management

Career Track

Students select a career track and courses with the approval of the graduate adviser. This includes nine units selected from courses listed under IS Technology or IS Management and Analytics above that were not taken as part of those required units and the following courses:
- MIS 515 - Object-Oriented Programming for Business Applications
- MIS 585 - Fundamentals of Cybersecurity Management
- MIS 720 - Electronic Business and Big Data Infrastructures
- MIS 691 - Decision Support Systems
- MIS 705 - Communication Strategies
- MIS 744 - Seminar in Lean Six Sigma
- MIS 753 - Global Supply Chain Analytics
- MIS 754 - Seminar in Operations Strategy
- CS 514 - Database Theory and Implementation
- GEOG 582 - GIS Programming with Python
- GEOG 594 - Big Data Science and Analytics Platforms
- LING 572 - Python Scripting for Social Science
- LING 583 - Statistical Methods in Text Analysis
- P H 627 - Advanced Statistical Methods in Public Health

Culminating Experience

Students have the option of completing a thesis or MIS 790, Culminating Experience in MIS.

Professional Standards

The university is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. Each member of the campus community should choose behaviors that contribute toward this end. Students are expected to be good citizens and to engage in responsible behaviors that reflect well upon their university, to be civil to one another and to others in the campus community, and contribute positively to student and university life.
Academic Requirements

Student Standing

- **Conditionally Classified**: students admitted conditionally have not met all university or department requirements for admission – this is often due to GPA requirements. Conditionally admitted students are usually required to obtain a certain GPA during their first several semesters of attendance. The specific conditions, and the allotted time period for completing them, are set by the Graduate Business Programs Office. Upon completion of your condition, the Graduate Business Advisor monitors your progress and will request your change of status for you.

- **Classified**: students admitted as Classified have met all university and department requirements upon admission.

- **Advanced to Candidacy**: For the Master of Business Administration, a student may be advanced to candidacy after completing at least 12 units of coursework listed on the official program of study with a minimum grade point average of 3.0.

**Program of Study**: Students’ official program of study is documented in their online degree evaluation available on the student’s my.SDSU page. This is a personalized status report of their progress toward completing graduation requirements. Students’ program of study is specific to the bulletin for their semester of admission.

It is the student’s responsibility to complete all courses listed on the official program of study with a grade of C (2.0) or better. A course cannot be deleted from an official program of study after it has been completed. This includes courses for which grades of “Incomplete” or Report in Progress” have been entered.

**Unit Requirements**:

- Credit earned by correspondence or by examination is not acceptable for advanced degree programs. Courses applied toward one advanced degree may not be used to fulfill the requirements of another advanced degree. Courses designated undergraduate level cannot be used towards an advanced degree. Coursework completed prior to earning a baccalaureate degree is not applicable toward any future graduate degree except under policy for concurrent master’s degree credit. Acceptable transfer coursework must be taken at an institution accredited by a regional accrediting association.

- MSIS and MSCM: A minimum of 30 approved units to include at least 21 units of 600 and 700 numbered courses. Not more than a total of three units in courses MIS 797 or MIS798 may be accepted for credit toward the degree.
Grades: No course in which a final grade below “C” (2.0) was earned may be used to satisfy the requirements for an advanced degree. No 500-, 600-, or 700-numbered courses graded Credit/No Credit except those offered for Credit/No Credit only are acceptable for a master’s degree program. Grade point averages of at least 3.0 (B) must be maintained in:

1. All courses listed on the official degree program.
2. A graduate student must maintain a 3.0 or higher cumulative grade point average for work attempted at San Diego State University.

Degree Audit

The Degree Evaluation (also called the degree audit report) is a resource for students and advisors to track student requirements, also known as your Program of Study, toward graduation. It includes course, GPA, and advancement to candidacy requirements. Students should check their degree evaluation at least once a semester to ensure that the program of study courses they are taking are reflected.