INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE STUDIES

Drexel University's College of Information Science and Technology (*iSchool*) helps students to prepare for careers in the information field through teaching, research, and real-world experience. The *iSchool* traces its roots back to the founding of Drexel's Library Department in the late 19th century. Over the decades, as information delivery and access have evolved and expanded, the *iSchool* has remained at the forefront of the field, at both the theoretical and applied levels.

The *iSchool* offers four master's degree programs, a dual master's option, a doctoral degree, post-master's specialist programs, and advanced non-degree study. Our students graduate with a solid foundation in information studies and advanced knowledge and specialization in fields ranging from library science to healthcare informatics.

All *iSchool* programs are accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and most individual programs are recognized by the highest accrediting body in their disciplines.

Our Programs

The *iSchool* offers the following degrees:

- MS in Health Informatics
- MS in Information Systems
- MS in Library and Information Science
- Dual MS in Information Systems and Library and Information Science
- MS in Software Engineering
- PhD in Information Studies

For More Information

In order to stay ahead of developments in the information field, we continually review and update the content of programs offered. Prospective students are encouraged to visit these websites for the most current information:

The *iSchool*, College of Information Science and Technology:
www.ischool.drexel.edu

Admissions:
www.drexel.edu/grad/ischool

The Graduate Catalog:
www.catalog.drexel.edu/graduate

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About Drexel

Drexel University is a private, nonsectarian coeducational university, founded in 1891 by financier and philanthropist Anthony J. Drexel. Today it is a top-tier, comprehensive research university, enrolling more than 16,000 undergraduates and 9,000 graduate, professional, and certificate students on four separate campuses. The University's 13 colleges and schools offer over 70 undergraduate majors, and more than 70 master's and 30 doctoral programs. Drexel is fully accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, with additional programs accredited by their respective top professional accreditation bodies. Students come from all 50 U.S. states and 133 foreign countries.

Faculty

In keeping with Drexel's focus on experiential education, faculty members in the *iSchool* are leaders in their fields, and many continue to be professionally active. This relationship to industry benefits students, providing inside knowledge and useful networking contacts in the Philadelphia area and beyond.

University-wide, approximately 95 percent of full-time faculty members hold the PhD or highest degree in their field, and the student-to-faculty ratio is 10 to 1.

Health Informatics (MSHI)

The Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI) is a multidisciplinary program formed through the collaboration of the *iSchool* and the College of Nursing and Health Professions. This online program prepares professionals to understand and integrate healthcare, information systems, and technology. Students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds learn to efficiently and responsibly use information systems, such as knowledge processing methodology and information and communication technologies, to improve health outcomes in a variety of settings, including clinical medicine, nursing, public health, industry, government, and academia.

Information Systems (MSIS)

As the global information network continues to expand, the need for computing professionals who can analyze, design, implement, test, deploy, assess, and enhance large-scale information systems becomes greater. The *iSchool*'s Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS) program has a history of preparing professionals for all of this and more.

The MSIS program is designed both for career changers interested in launching new careers in information systems and information technology and for information systems professionals who wish to broaden and formalize their knowledge in the field. The program requires a total of 45 credit hours of coursework, which can be fulfilled on campus and/or online. Courses address the business, managerial, and technical aspects of information systems for a complete understanding of the integration of organizations and systems.

MSIS graduates advance to leadership positions, working to improve the strategic use and management of information resources across business, government, and nonprofit organizations.

Library and Information Science (MS(LIS))

Drexel University's MS in Library and Information Science was the second program of its kind to be established and remains one of only 63 programs nationwide accredited by the American Library Association. The MS(LIS) is consistently ranked among the nation's best by *U.S.News & World Report*.

Students can complete the MS(LIS) on campus, online, or as a combination of the two. The degree requires 45 credit hours of study. Of these, 18 credits comprise a core undertaken by all students in the program. The remaining credits may be filled with free electives or a combination of electives and a 15-credit concentration. Concentrations are available in Archival Studies, Competitive Intelligence and Knowledge Management, Digital Libraries, Library and Information Services, School Library Media, and Youth Services.

The MS(LIS) degree qualifies students for a variety of positions, including academic librarian, children's librarian, knowledge management specialist, systems librarian, web developer, young adult librarian, digital librarian, and competitive intelligence analyst.

Dual MS(LIS)/MSIS

The dual degree combines the MS(LIS) program's concern with selecting, organizing, managing, and accessing information resources with the MSIS skills in creating and managing databases, interfaces, and information systems. Students who pursue this path gain a competitive edge in the information marketplace, where the importance of digitized information resources and the needs

of organizations and companies to provide networked access to these resources via intranet gateways and knowledge management systems is steadily increasing.

Students should already be working toward a master's in one program when requesting admission to the second. To successfully complete the dual degree, students must meet the core requirements of both programs and earn a total of 63 graduate credits.

Software Engineering (MSSE)

The *iSchool*'s Master of Science in Software Engineering (MSSE) is a multidisciplinary degree offered in conjunction with Drexel's College of Engineering. The program draws on the strengths of existing Drexel programs in Computer Science, Engineering, and Information Science and Technology to provide a curriculum that encompasses behavioral, managerial, and technical aspects of software engineering and attempts to synthesize disciplinary paradigms and themes. The program is offered for students interested in a wide range of application domains.

Students working toward the MSSE degree work in one of three tracks: Computer Science, Engineering, or Information Science and Technology. While degree requirements vary by track, all students take an 18-credit common core which is distributed equally across the three tracks.

The Information Science and Technology track is designed for students interested in applying software engineering to information systems problems in commercial organizations and other settings.

Information Studies (PhD)

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Information Studies is a research degree program. As such, it requires a high level of scholarly achievement in both supervised and independent study and research. There are few fixed program requirements, and the master's degree is not a prerequisite. This program has two major goals: to allow students to acquire in-depth knowledge of a specialized area within the field of information science and technology and to prepare students for careers in which research is a fundamental element.

The PhD requires a minimum of 90 credits beyond the bachelor's degree or 45 credits beyond an applicable MS degree, as well as a regularly reviewed portfolio and a dissertation. While students may begin the program on a part-time basis, they must fulfill the three-term full-time residency requirement. The degree can be completed in as few as three years, but usually takes between four and five.

Graduates have gone on to careers in which they apply their research in education, research, administrative, and policy settings.

Certificates

Because the information fields evolve at a rapid pace, the *iSchool* offers a number of professional development opportunities for students who have already earned a master's degree, allowing them to update their knowledge bases or develop new areas of expertise. These include an advanced certificate in information studies and technology, a certificate in healthcare informatics, and post-master's specialist programs in archival studies, competitive intelligence/knowledge management, digital libraries, and youth services. While these may carry graduate credit, they are not applied toward a degree program.

Find more about *iSchool* certificates at **www.drexel.edu/grad/programs/ischool**.

Research and Resources

The *iSchool*'s research capabilities and resources cover the full range of the information field. Topics of particular interest to current faculty and graduate students include artificial intelligence, database management, human-computer interaction, information visualization and retrieval, knowledge management, social informatics, software engineering, bioinformatics, systems analysis and design, digital libraries, and youth services and issues.

Our facilities, particularly the iCommons resource center, are equipped with cutting-edge computing hardware and software. In addition, the *iSchool* maintains a strong Web presence, notably as home to the Internet Public Library, the world's largest online collection and digital reference resource.

Libraries

The Hagerty Library, located on the University City Campus, reflects the curricular strengths of the campus. It houses approximately 500,000 bound volumes, DVDs, videos, and archival resources; and it provides access to an impressive array of electronic databases and periodicals.

Audiovisual materials are available for viewing and listening at home, in fully equipped study carrels, and in group viewing rooms. Scanning; printing; and word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and other software programs are available in the Computer Center. The Bookmark Café is open 24 hours a day for use by University students, faculty, staff, and residents.

Drexel University has three other libraries: Hahnemann Library, located on the Center City Campus, the College of Law Library, located on the University City Campus, and the Queen Lane Library, located on the Queen Lane Campus. Drexel graduate students also have access to the library resources of the University of Pennsylvania, the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, and the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College.

Philadelphia

Philadelphia is the nation's fifth largest city, with a metropolitan population of nearly six million. It is renowned for its historical sites and the diversity of its neighborhoods, and as a hub of the pharmaceutical, electronics, cable, design, and finance industries.

The city offers countless arts, entertainment, and recreational attractions including museums, theaters, major league sports franchises, and the nation's largest urban park system, as well as first-class shopping, dining, and nightlife.

The *iSchool* is located on Drexel's Main Campus in the University City neighborhood, which is also home to the University of Pennsylvania, the University of the Sciences, and the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College.

Admission

Acceptance for graduate study at Drexel University requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in the United States or an equivalent international institution. Although admission requirements vary by program, regular acceptance typically requires a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 for the last two years of undergraduate work. The GPA for any graduate work must be at least 3.0. Applicants for post-master's status must show potential for further study by having maintained at least a 3.0 GPA in their master's-level studies. (Individual departmental requirements may exceed this minimum.)

The admissions committee evaluates all credentials submitted by applicants to determine a student's ability and potential to succeed in graduate study. In addition, the committee is interested in the applicant's ability to contribute to his/her program of study and to the University community as a whole.

Applicants may only apply to one program at a time. Drexel will waive the application fee if you apply online or submit your application during a campus visit. For more information, see **www.drexel.edu/grad/apply**.

Financing

Students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) annually to be eligible for federal, state, or institutional aid. File online at **www.fafsa.gov**. Drexel's school code is 003256. To learn more, visit **www.drexel.edu/financialaid**.

Merit-based aid in the form of teaching, research, and graduate assistantships is awarded by the graduate departments based on need and availability of funds. Questions should be directed to the graduate advisor.

Contact Us

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Apply online at **www.drexel.edu/grad/apply**.

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