BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS (BIS)

Business Information Systems (BIS) is the application of Information Technology (IT) to provide solutions that meet the managerial needs of business organizations. The BIS program is set to the curriculum standards of the Association of Computing Machinery and the Association of Information Technology Professionals. Together with accounting, business and finance, BIS is part of Eastern’s Department of Business Administration. Adding a BIS management, healthcare informatics or social informatics minor to a liberal arts, business, accounting, finance, computer science or other major provides a student with multiple skill sets, offering greater job flexibility, higher-rewarding positions and better career prospects.

The BIS program starts with core business courses that are common to the four majors in the Business Administration Department. These are followed by classes in business information systems, web technologies, systems analysis and design, electronic commerce, enterprise systems and e-business, organizational website and database management, project management, business data communications and networking, and business intelligence and analytics, as well as other exciting subjects that prepare students for careers in the growing information technology field. The combination of sound business and technology skills provides our BIS graduates with a competitive advantage in the job marketplace.

Eastern offers a major in BIS, minors in BIS management, social informatics, management information systems and healthcare informatics, and a concentration in BIS management in the Bachelor of General Studies degree.

CAREER OPTIONS

- Web developer
- Systems analyst
- Business analyst
- Business systems integration specialist
- Database administrator
- Enterprise resource planning IS specialist
- Information manager
- Consultant
- Business intelligence analyst
- Business cloud developer
- Information technology architect
- User support specialist
- Information systems project coordinator
- Chief information officer
- Information security specialist
- Usability analyst
- User experience researcher
- Health information management
- Business Analytics Specialist
- Data Analyst
- Ecommerce Specialist
- Business Network Administrator
- Business/IS Project Manager
Eastern provides excellent information systems educational opportunities through quality instruction, practical projects, service learning, computer labs, internships, co-ops and advanced educational technology.

For the projected 2010-20 top fifteen pure job number growth career areas, the BLS National Employment Matrix (2012) identifies four in business information systems and technology and healthcare information systems.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has identified five information technology occupations with expected 2010-20 job growth rates of over 20 percent that had median pay of over $70,000 as of 2010. (U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics - March 29, 2012).

STUDENT SUCCESS

Recent graduates of the BIS program at Eastern are employed by United Technologies Corporation, Aetna Insurance, Travelers Insurance, Phoenix Insurance, General Dynamics, CIGNA, Northeast Utilities, Pfizer, RMI, State of Connecticut Information Technology Services, Day Kimball Healthcare, Backus, Hartford and St. Francis hospitals, Three Rivers Community College, Manchester Community College, Veeder-Root Company, Hewitt Associates, Turtle and Hughes, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army and many other organizations.

SERVICE LEARNING & INTERNSHIPS

Practical and real-world projects are an integral part of the BIS program. In BIS 377 – Organizational Website and Database Management (an official service learning course) – student teams design, build and implement databases and organizational information systems, addressing the specific needs of local nonprofit organizations such as Covenant Soup Kitchen, Windham No-Freeze Shelter, WAIM, The ARC and Town of Windham. Various types of projects (databases, systems analysis, data analytics, user interface, websites, etc.) with regional organizations are integrated throughout multiple BIS courses to provide students with practical real-world experiences and feedback. These projects make a positive difference in efficiency and functionality for Connecticut organizations and communities. Students majoring in BIS are required to have at least one paid or unpaid internship. Frequently, students are offered career positions upon graduating at their internship organizations, often many of the employers listed earlier some of whom offer on campus paid internships at Eastern’s Work Hub.

SUCCESS AND RECOGNITION

Eastern BIS student members of the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) won the national collegiate championship of the yearlong database-driven website competition at the 2010 AITP National Collegiate Conference. There are 289 AITP student chapters in North America. Zach Flight, a 2011 BIS major, came in second place in the 2010 nationwide Microsoft Solutions competition. For helping Covenant Soup Kitchen, Eastern’s AITP Student Chapter received the 2010 Connecticut Department of Higher Education Community Service Award. At the 2011 AITP National Collegiate Conference, the AITP chapter received honorable mention for their yearlong database Internet information sharing hub that enables ten Windham nonprofits to share information and collaborate more effectively. The BIS-AITP Team won the first annual Code-a-thon in 2015, hosted by CIGNA, in which it beat student teams from other Connecticut schools. In the 2013, 2014 and 2015 AITP National Collegiate Conferences, the Eastern AITP database-website projects with local nonprofit organizations finished in the top ten in North America, with the 2014 project receiving Honorable Mention and the 2015 project finishing in Third Place.