INTRODUCTION

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 and business, BIS is part of Eastern’s Department of Business Administration. Adding a BIS management, healthcare informatics or social informatics minor to liberal arts, business, accounting or other majors provides a student with multiple skill sets, providing greater job flexibility, higher-rewarding positions, and better career prospects.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The BIS program starts with core business courses that are common to the three majors in the Business Administration Department. These are followed by classes in business information systems and 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, as well as other exciting subjects that prepare students for careers in the information technology field. The combination of sound business and technology skills provides our graduates with a competitive advantage in the job marketplace.

Eastern offers a major in BIS, a minor in BIS management, a minor in social informatics, a minor in management information systems, a minor in healthcare informatics, and a concentration in BIS management with the Bachelor of General Studies degree. Eastern provides excellent information systems educational opportunities through quality instruction, practical projects, service learning, modern labs, internships, co-ops, and advanced educational technology.

TRENDS IN THE FIELD

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)

CAREER OPTIONS

BIS provides a comprehensive range of skills that may be applied in many high-demand occupations, including:

- 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 application developer
- Information technology architect
- User support specialist
- Information systems project coordinator
- Chief information officer
- Business information security specialist
- Usability analyst
- User experience researcher
- Health information management
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, 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, Rhode Island Department of Transportation, the U.S. Army, and many other organizations.

“The BIS program at Eastern differentiates itself from all other schools in the area. I am a Continuing Education student in this program. I have also been working in information technology and IT-related positions for a large insurance company for more than 20 years. All of the BIS courses have helped me in my career—it was like ‘just in time’ on-the-job training. What differentiates Eastern is that the concepts learned in class can be applied in the workplace. I am more confident in my job today because of my participation in the program.”

DAWN SHANE
HEAD INFORMATICS PLATFORM AND STRATEGY MANAGEMENT, AETNA

SERVICE LEARNING

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 with regional organizations are integrated throughout multiple BIS courses to provide students with practical real-world experiences and feedback.

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. For both the 2013 and 2014 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 special Honorable Mention.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact BIS Program Coordinator, Alex Citurs through the department office at (860) 465-5265 or citursa@easternct.edu, or visit www.easternct.edu/business/info_major.htm.