

Carnegie Mellon University HeinzCollege

INFORMATION SYSTEMS • PUBLIC POLICY • MANAGEMENT

MSIT
Program
Handbook

2017-2018

Master of Science in Information Technology

- Information Technology Management
- Information Security and Assurance
- Business Intelligence and Data Analytics
- Software Design and Management
- Customized Partner Programs:
 - *General Motors – Information Systems Management*
 - *General Motors – Software Engineering*
 - *Tec de Monterrey – Information Technology Management*

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MSIT PROGRAM HANDBOOK

1 COLLEGE AND PROGRAM HANDBOOKS

This program handbook provides specific information on the curriculum and program requirements for the Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) degrees administered by the H. John Heinz III College of Carnegie Mellon University. The Heinz College also publishes a separate Student Handbook which details College-wide policies and procedures pertaining to educational planning, program committee, teaching, scheduling and course credit, performance standards, academic standing, ethics and discipline, student privacy rights and major forms and deadlines. Therefore, students should familiarize themselves with **both** handbooks as they include information that is critical for your success. Both handbooks can be obtained through your Program Director and via the Heinz College website at:

<http://www.heinz.cmu.edu/academic-resources/student-handbook-forms/index.aspx>.

2 MSIT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The MSIT program is designed for the experienced tech and data savvy professional. Its flexible curriculum and part-time study with evening and distance class formats allows students to complete one of four graduate degree while maintaining their full-time employment. Students are allowed to choose a course load each semester that best suits their personal/work situation. Most part-time MSIT students take 1-2 courses each semester and are able to complete the program in 2-3 years. However, you have up to five years to finish the program and may extend up to seven years due to extenuating circumstances or extended leaves of absence.

The MSIT program offers four degrees of study:

- MSIT-Information Technology Management – evening (MSIT-ITM) or distance MSIT-(IMD)
- MSIT-Information Security & Assurance – evening (MSIT-ITA) or distance (MSIT-DIA)
- MSIT-Business Intelligence & Data Analytics – evening (MSIT-BI) or distance (MSIT-DBI)
- MSIT-Software Design & Management – evening only (MSIT-ITD)

Each degree requires completion of 60 units of core courses and 84 units of elective coursework. Of those 84 units, up to 12 units may be an independent study related to the selected track and up to 24 units may be transfer credit from previous graduate coursework.

Electives may be chosen from the list of 95-xxx Information Systems Management department courses, the MSIT distance course catalog, and graduate-level courses offered by other Heinz College programs or CMU departments, subject to pre-approval from your Program Director.

We also offer customized programs for some corporate (General Motors) and educational (Tec de Monterrey) partners, which are variations of the above tracks of study, program format and curriculum distribution as noted in their respective sections of this handbook.

3 MSIT PROGRAM SPECIFIC POLICIES

The Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) program abides by the policies of the Heinz College as outlined in the Heinz College Student Handbook. Here are some specific requirements or modifications that are important to MSIT students:

3.1 *Graduation Requirements*

A student will be certified for graduation from the MSIT program when they have satisfied the following:

- Earned 144 units of course credit (*including approved transfer credit*);
- Successfully passed all required core courses (*with a C- or better, or earned an exemption*);
- And achieved a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0.

Most part-time MSIT students can complete their degree in two to three years. However, you have up to five years to finish the program (from the semester in which the student was first admitted). After five years, a student may petition to extend this up to seven years if the delay was due to extenuating circumstances or extended leave(s) of absence that prevented the student from completing their MSIT degree within five years. Contact your Program Director during your fifth year to discuss a plan for completion. Otherwise, the student may need to reapply for admission to a current program and/or retake any core course that has changed significantly.

3.2 *Part-time Course Load*

A full-semester course carries 12 units of credit and generally expects 12 hours for your time and effort per week on average, including 3 hours of lecture per week. “Mini” courses are half of a semester in length; they generally carry 6 units of credit, and also require approximately 12 hours per week of your time. Part-time student should use this as a guide to determine how much coursework they can manage on top of their employment and personal commitments.

MSIT is a part-time only program so students may take up to 30 units per semester, although most find 12-18 units a more manageable load. You may petition the Program Director or Associate Dean to exceed 30 units if you have extenuating circumstances that justify a heavier course load and your demonstrated academic performance shows you can handle the extra workload. International students are prohibited from exceeding 30 units regardless of circumstances due to student visa regulations. Students who intend to enroll full-time on a regular basis (36 units or more) should transfer to one of the full-time programs instead.

Students can change their schedules without penalty up until the official Add/Drop deadline for the class, which is typically the first two weeks of a semester-long class and just the first week of each mini-semester class. Any schedule changes after that must be due to extenuating circumstances and be approved by the Program Director. Please contact the Program Director to discuss your situation.

If you are making good progress in a class but extenuating circumstances will prevent you from completing all requirements for a course by the end of the semester, ask the instructor for permission to take an incomplete or "I" grade. If the instructor agrees (and he or she may refuse), you and the instructor must sign a formal contract before the official Last Day of Class detailing the plan for completion, including a default final grade if the remaining work is not done. The incomplete work must be done no later than the end of the subsequent semester.

Part-time students are also permitted to take a semester or more off from classes. Just submit a Leave of Absence form to your Program Director at least one week before the first day of the semester. When you are ready to return, submit the Petition to Return from Leave to your Program Director at least one week before the first day of the semester. Both forms can be downloaded from the registrar's website: www.cmu.edu/hub.

3.3 *Exemption and Transfer Credit*

MSIT students may pursue exemptions from core courses if you have already acquired all or most of the skills taught in that course outside of the College. To receive an exemption, you must petition the instructor of the relevant course or take their qualifying exam. The procedures are outlined in the College handbook. Please note you do not earn credit for an exemption, therefore, you must take additional elective to make up the units. An exemption does mean you have satisfied completion of that core course for purposes of graduation, as well as if that course is listed as a prerequisite for a different class.

In general, the Heinz College full-time programs do not give transfer credit for graduate courses taken prior to admission. However, the **MSIT program will consider up to 24 units of relevant transfer credit** to count towards your MSIT elective requirements. This is decided on a case-by-case basis, and depends on a number of factors, such as when and where the coursework was completed, the subject in which it was taken, and the grade that was earned. Minimum criteria include that it was earned within the last 10 years at a regionally accredited university with a grade of B or better. The grade will not be calculated into your CMU grade point average but the units will be counted towards MSIT elective requirements.

All petitions for exemption and transfer credit must be submitted within your first semester of enrollment.

3.4 *Elective Options*

You may take up to 12 units of Independent Study as an elective, except for our sponsored students from General Motors and Tec de Monterrey. Contact the Program Director for guidelines on developing an appropriate independent study.

You may take up to 12 units of elective coursework as Pass/No Pass grade, except for our sponsored students from General Motors and Tec de Monterrey.

You may take graduate coursework from other CMU departments, except for our sponsored students from General Motors and Tec de Monterrey, but you must get approval in advance from the Program Director before registering for that class.

Courses at other universities fall under the transfer credit policy for MSIT and must be courses completed prior to admission. Any exceptions to that policy must be due to extenuating circumstances and require a petition to the Program Director **before** taking the non-CMU course, or must have been pre-approved as part of a custom curriculum for one of our partner programs (like GM or Tec de Monterrey.)

3.5 Java Programming Prep Course

The School of Information Systems and Management courses typically expect students have had an undergraduate level object-oriented programming course or equivalent work experience. This background is especially important to have before taking our programming classes, 95-712 or 95-807, which are NOT intro to java programming courses. Anyone lacking that background or wanting a refresher should pursue a prep course outside of the MSIT curriculum. For example, CMU students also have free access to online training at www.cmu.edu/lynda which has several object-oriented foundations classes. The Heinz College admissions office also has some [programming guidelines](#), including a few recommendations for suitable intro classes.

4 MSIT CURRICULUM

4.1 MSIT-Information Technology Management (MSIT-ITM, MSIT-IMD)

This degree can be done fully online or hybrid online/evening campus classes. It requires one undergraduate level object-oriented programming class or equivalent work experience prior to admission because that is a prerequisite for the core java class (95-712 or 95-807). See Section 3.5 for refresher suggestions. *Evening students may need to take a core course in distance mode ^(D) if the instructor only teaches online or during the daytime, or they can take the daytime class if their schedule permits.*

95-703	Database Management	12 units
95-712*	Object Oriented Programming in Java	12 units
95-706	Object-Oriented Analysis and Design	6 units
95-705 ^(D)	Telecommunications Management	12 units
95-730 ^(D)	E-business Technology and Management	12 units
95-808**	IT Project Management	6 units
Various	Electives	84 units

* 95-807 ^(D) is substituted for 95-712 in the distance program; evening students may take either one but 95-712 is recommended if you will take more technical electives offered on campus.

** 94-813 can be substituted for 95-808.

4.2 MSIT-Information Security and Assurance (MSIT-ITA, MSIT-DIA)

This degree can be done fully online or hybrid online/evening campus classes. Its core requirements were updated by Heinz College faculty in January 2016. Students admitted prior to January 2016 should consult with their Program Director to develop a transition plan.

Evening students may need to take a core course in distance mode ^(D) if the instructor only teaches online or during the daytime, or they can take the daytime class if their schedule permits.

95-752	Intro to Information Security Management	12 units
95-705 ^(D)	Telecommunications Management	12 units
94-806 ^(D)	Privacy in the Digital Age	6 units
95-755	Information Security Risk Management I	6 units
95-744	Cyber Security Policy and Governance I	6 units
95-748	Software and Security	6 units
95-758	Network and Internet Security	12 units
Various	Electives	84 units

4.3 MSIT-Business Intelligence and Data Analytics Track (MSIT-BI, MSIT-DBI)

This degree can be done fully online or hybrid online/evening campus classes. It is highly recommended that students in this major familiarize themselves with R programming, either by taking 94-842 R Programming for Analytics or free online training through www.cmu.edu/lynda or MOOCs like Coursera. *Evening students in this major will need to take several core course in distance mode ^(D) if the instructor only teaches online or during the daytime, or they can take the daytime class if their schedule permits.*

95-703	Database Management	12 units
95-710	Economic Analysis	6 units
95-796	Statistics for IT Managers	6 units
94-806 ^(D)	Privacy in the Digital Age	6 units
95-797	Data Warehousing	6 units
95-868 ^(D)	Exploring and Visualizing Data (using R)	6 units
95-791 *	Data Mining	6 units
95-852 ^(D)	Applied Data Science	6 units
95-866 ^(D)	Advanced Business Analytics (take as last core course)	6 units
Various	Electives	84 units

* It is highly recommended that students are familiar with R programming before taking Data Mining, either by taking 94-842 R Programming for Analytics, 95-868 Exploring and Visualizing data, or free online training through www.cmu.edu/lynda or MOOCs like Coursera.

4.4 MSIT-Software Design and Management (MSIT-ITD)

This degree is in conjunction with the School of Computer Science and can only be done on campus/evening, although all core courses can be done through distance learning. The programming and software development experience required as a prerequisite to apply means students admitted to this major have essentially earned an exemption from 95-712/95-807 and have satisfied that as a prerequisite for any course that lists it.

95-771	Data Structures and Algorithms	12 units
17-653	Managing Software Development	12 units
17-655	Architecture of Software Systems	12 units
95-703	Database Management	12 units
95-706	Object-Oriented Analysis and Design	6 units
95-808*	IT Project Management	6 units
Various	Electives	84 units

* 94-813 can be substituted for 95-808.

4.5 Customized Partner Programs

All Heinz College and MSIT policies may apply unless otherwise modified in the curriculum distribution listed here and/or in the educational partnership agreement/contract.

4.5.1 General Motors Information Systems Management (MSIT-DIM or MSIT-ISM)

95-703	Database Management	12 units/4 credits
95-807	Object Oriented Programming	12 units/4 credits
95-705	Telecommunications Management	12 units/4 credits
95-730	E-business Technology and Management	12 units/4 credits
95-833	Global IT Mgmt, Sourcing & Automation	12 units/4 credits
95-831	Enterprise Architectures	6 units/2 credits
95-872	Art and Science of Business Analytics	6 units/2 credits
17-653	Managing Software Development	12 units/4 credits
17-638*	Architecture of Software Systems	6 units/2 credits
95-720	Information Systems Project	24 units/8 credits
Various**	Electives (pick 2-3)	30 units/10 credits

* 17-655 can be substituted for 17-638 for students with robust java programming skills.
17-655 is 12 units/4 credits so this will take away 6 units/2 credits from your electives.

** Includes CMU electives and pre-approved electives offered by other GM TEP partner universities.

4.5.2 General Motors Software Engineering (MSIT-DIS or MSIT-SE)

This program requires experience in programming and software development as a prerequisite to apply. Students admitted to this track have essentially earned an exemption from 95-807 and have satisfied 95-807 as a prerequisite for any course in the curriculum below:

17-651	Models of Software Systems	12 units/4 credits
17-652	Methods: Deciding What to Design	12 units/4 credits
17-653	Managing Software Development	12 units/4 credits
17-654	Analysis of Software Artifacts	12 units/4 credits
17-655	Architecture of Software Systems	12 units/4 credits
95-703	Database Management	12 units/4 credits
95-705	Telecommunications Management	12 units/4 credits
95-730	E-business Technology and Management	12 units/4 credits
95-720	Information Systems Project	24 units/8 credits
Various*	Electives (pick 2)	24 units/8 credits

* Can include other CMU courses in the GM offerings and pre-approved electives offered by other GM TEP partner universities.

4.5.3 Dual degree with Tec de Monterrey (MSIT-MATI)

This dual degree distance program with Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, México (ITESM) requires students to complete 96 units from each university by following a prescribed plan of study with their cohort. ITESM will transfer all 96 units of MSIT credit towards their MATI degree; Heinz College will transfer 48 units of ITESM credit to count towards completion of the MSIT degree. Therefore, you can't earn one degree without completion of the other. There are also no course exemptions, electives or independent study allowed in this program. This online only program is intended for IT professionals working in the Latin American market.

The MSIT-MATI dual degree program requires successful completion of the following 96 units of MSIT coursework plus completion of ITESM's MATI degree:

95-805	Business Communications	6 units
95-833	Global IT Mgmt, Sourcing & Automation	12 units
95-703	Database Management	12 units
95-710	Economic Analysis	6 units
95-808	IT Project Management	6 units
95-872	Art and Science of Business Analytics	6 units
95-705	Telecommunications Management	12 units

95-796	Statistics for IT Managers	6 units
95-797	Data Warehousing	6 units
95-760	Decision Making under Uncertainty	6 units
95-831	Enterprise Architectures	6 units
95-722	Digital Transformation	6 units
95-774	Business Process Modeling	6 units