

MASTER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

SAM M. WALTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS
SAM M. WALTON
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



The Master of Information Systems

Employers around the world seek highly qualified individuals who can assume leadership positions and who can implement new technologies in these rapidly changing times. The Master of Information Systems (MIS) degree was designed to respond to this demand. As an MIS student at the Sam M. Walton College of Business, you will have the opportunity to develop leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills as well as analytical and critical thinking skills that employers demand.

MIS students benefit from cutting-edge curriculum, professionals in the classroom, and technology gifts provided by industry partners. The Walton College will give you hands-on exposure to numerous industry tools that are being used currently in the business world. Classrooms, computer labs, and remote access environments are equipped with state-of-the-art technology, extending the learning environment to you and enabling you to excel in the information technology industry.

Many courses in the MIS program are team-taught by faculty and industry experts, combining and comparing theory with practical application in real-world scenarios.

“The MIS program at Walton College introduced a variety of tools and software that helped me find a great job in this competitive market. The state-of-art technology, flexible coursework and world-class faculty provided an invaluable learning experience.”

– **Niveditha Murali**, Analytics Service Provider,
Mu Sigma, Inc. / Sam's Club Member Insights

Enterprise Systems (ES)

World Class Computing

Enterprise systems are large-scale information technology systems used today in the world's largest organizations. While most universities include only PC and Unix-based platforms in their programs, the Walton College is the only business school in the world that uses the following mix of large-scale enterprise systems in class:

- > IBM zSeries Mainframe Server
- > Teradata Database Server
- > SAP Enterprise Resource Planning Software
- > Microsoft SQL Server and Business Intelligence Studio
- > Large-scale, real-world data sets from Sam's Club, Tyson Foods, Dillard's, Acxiom and Walmart.

Information Technology Research Institute (ITRI)

A nationally competitive research center serving Arkansas and the world

The ITRI's mission is to advance the state of research and practice in the development and use of information technology for enhancing the performance of individuals and organizations; provide a forum for multi-disciplinary work on issues related to information technology; promote student interest in the study of information technologies; and facilitate the exchange of information between the academic and business communities. The ITRI is also home to the University of Arkansas Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Research Center, the only accredited academic RFID lab in the world.

Placement

The job market for IT professionals continues to be strong as the demand for combined technological expertise and managerial skills increases. Graduate students in Information Systems develop leadership, communication, problem-solving and analytical skills that are sought after by leading employers around the world.

The George W. Edwards, Jr. Career Center at the Walton College provides students with personalized career planning. Their dedicated staff focuses on your career aspirations and assists you with your résumé, interview skills, job search strategies and salary negotiations. Every semester, the Career Center organizes a Business Career Fair, connecting students with regional and national employers.

Our graduates have gone on to work for companies such as Acxiom, Deloitte, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Intel, J.B. Hunt, SAP, Teradata, Tyson Foods, Walmart and Yahoo!.

For more detailed information, visit their website: waltoncollege.uark.edu/career/.

Faculty

The Walton College information systems faculty provide a broad range of expertise in information systems through teaching, cutting-edge research, real-world experience and leadership in national professional organizations. To learn more about this outstanding faculty, visit the Department of Information Systems web site at waltoncollege.uark.edu/isys/.

Curriculum

The Master of Information Systems degree is a 30-credit-hour program designed to provide professionals in information technology, or those seeking a career in information technology, the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful in today's highly competitive, constantly changing world of business technology.

Prior to beginning coursework, students must demonstrate knowledge of fundamental topics in information systems. This may be accomplished by completing the "IT Toolkit" course (ISYS 511V) with a grade of "B" or higher or by passing a proficiency exam (or equivalent). Business foundations (statistics, accounting and economics) are also recommended.

Full-time MIS Program

Core – required (9 hours)

- > Seminar in Systems Development
- > Data Management Systems
- > Management of Information Technology Seminar

Areas of Concentration – choose one (15 hours)

- > Information Technology Management
- > Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Management
- > Enterprise Systems (ES) Management
- > Software Engineering Management

Electives (6 hours) Total = 30 hours

A limited number of graduate assistantships (GA) are available. Students are automatically considered for a GA upon receipt of a completed application. Domestic students are eligible for student loans. To apply, go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Application deadline is Feb. 1.

The Walton Professional MIS (part-time)

The 21-month Walton Professional MIS program is designed for working professionals and is completed by taking six hours per semester for five semesters. Students are on campus approximately one Saturday per month. Courses are taught through a blended-delivery format with both face-to-face and online components.

First year / Fall semester

- > Seminar in Systems Development
- > Data Management Systems

Spring semester

- > Decision Support Systems
- > E-Business Development

Summer

- > ERP Fundamentals
- > Global IS

Second year / Fall semester

- > Seminar in Business Intelligence
- > Concentration elective (ES or ERP)

Spring semester

- > Management of Information Technology Seminar
- > Concentration Elective (ES or ERP)

Domestic students are eligible for student loans. To apply, go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov. Tuition assistance is often available through employers. Contact your HR Department to determine if a program is available to you.

Application deadline is June 15, and late applications may be considered on the basis of available space and pre-requisite knowledge.



Graduate Certificate in Enterprise Systems

(part-time, 12-credit-hour)

Enterprise Information Systems Concentration

The field of information systems is growing at a steady pace, and many organizations are facing major challenges finding qualified professionals to fill open positions in the field. For individuals wishing to transition into a career in information systems, or for organizations seeking to develop the information systems skills of non-IT employees, this program offers an accelerated transition into the field of information systems.

The Enterprise Information Systems concentration includes courses in IT fundamentals, data management, and systems development. Students who successfully complete this concentration may be eligible to receive a certificate endorsed by Microsoft. Credit hours earned in this program can also be applied to the Master of Information Systems degree program.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Concentration

ERP Systems are used by almost all Fortune 500 companies, and most of those companies use SAP. As a member of the SAP University Alliance, the Walton College provides students with hands-on experience using ERP software. Executives from local, national, and multinational companies consider ERP experience to be a significant differentiating factor when reviewing résumés and selecting candidates for job interviews.

The Enterprise Resource Planning concentration includes courses in ERP Fundamentals, ERP Configuration & Implementation, and ERP Development. Students completing this concentration may be eligible to receive a certificate endorsed by SAP America and the SAP University Alliances Program. Credit hours earned in this program can also be applied to the Master of Information Systems degree program.

Enterprise Analytics Concentration

Enterprise Analytics (sometimes referred to as Business Intelligence) is a fast-growing field within IT that focuses on finding value in the massive amounts of data collected in modern organizations, improving the quality of decision making processes, and increasing the speed with which modern organizations can make decisions.

The Enterprise Analytics concentration includes courses in data management, decision support systems, and business intelligence. The program is designed to give you not only the knowledge to succeed with analytics, but the hands-on experience to put your learning in practice. Students completing this concentration may be eligible to receive a certificate endorsed by the SAS Institute. Credit hours earned in this program can also be applied to the Master of Information Systems degree program.

“Our recognized MIS and ES Certificate programs help students to better understand how business systems work together to support decision making. With world-class enterprise systems resources, our students have a ‘hands-on’ learning experience and learn about data warehousing, database, ERP, decision support, analytics, mining, and other business systems. Using multiple platforms, large-scale computers, and real company databases, students ‘pull it all together’ to support the needs of business. Students are the winners!”

– Paul Cronan, Program Director



Application Materials

- **Application form** – Apply at gsb.uark.edu.
 - **Application fee** – \$40 for domestic students and \$50 for international students – pay your fee online when you apply or call 479-575-2851 to pay by phone.
 - **Résumé** – Email to gsb@walton.uark.edu.
 - **Official transcripts** – Send to the Graduate School of Business, 310 Willard J. Walker Hall, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.
 - **Three Letters of Recommendation** – Complete online at gsb.uark.edu/forms.asp.
 - **Two essays** – Provide thoughtful responses to the following essay questions. Please limit your responses to one or two double-spaced pages each. Email them to gsb@walton.uark.edu.
 - What are your short-term and long-term career goals? How will the master’s degree program you wish to complete help you achieve your goals?
 - Please share with the admissions committee any unique events, life experiences and qualifications that you feel distinguish your candidacy and will add value to your class.
 - **GMAT score** – GRE is accepted; however, GMAT is preferred. Register for the GMAT at mba.com and for the GRE at ets.org.
- International applicants must also submit:**
- TOEFL – Minimum 213 computer-based, 550 paper-based or 79 internet-based. IELTS (minimum score must be 6.5) and the PTE (minimum score of 58) are also accepted. TOEFL is waived for applicants with degrees from an American institution.
 - Summary of Educational Experience Form – Download from gsb.uark.edu/forms.asp then fax to 479-575-8721 or email to gsb@walton.uark.edu.
 - Supplemental and Financial Information Form – Download from gsb.uark.edu/forms.asp then fax to 479-575-8721 or email to gsb@walton.uark.edu.

Admission

Admission to the Walton College MIS programs is highly competitive and selective. Decisions are based on the entire application package. Enrollment in each program is limited. Applications received after the deadline are considered on a space-available basis.

Application deadline is **Feb. 1** for full-time and **Jun. 15** for part-time.



**Sam M. Walton College of Business
Graduate School of Business**

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