

INFORMATICS, BS

As information technologies such as social media, artificial intelligence (AI), and interactive media have moved from the periphery to center stage, there is increased need for professionals who can accurately assess their impact and realize their potential to enhance our lives, work, and well-being. The Informatics (B.S.) approaches information technology from a user-centered perspective with a focus on the analysis and design of socio-technical systems that store, process, and communicate information. This program is designed for students who are interested in assessing information technology impacts and designing information structures and technology to solve complex social and organizational problems. While no comparable program is currently offered in Alabama, similar programs are now offered by peer schools throughout the US, including multiple flagship programs in the SEC and the Big10. Offering an Informatics (B.S.) in the College of Communication and Information Sciences which capitalizes on the graduate faculty expertise in the School of Library and Information Studies contributes to The University of Alabama's goal of providing premier undergraduate education based on high-quality scholarship and a distinctive curriculum.

The Informatics major provides students with a curriculum that combines foundational knowledge and practical skills. Students develop the ability to analyze issues surrounding the social aspects of information through coursework that critically examines the foundational aspects of human-centered design and user needs and assessment. Through electives, students have the opportunity to further explore how information technologies, processes, practices and their biases impact broader social and organizational structures.

Required Courses in Major		Hours
IS 101	Introduction to Informatics	3
IS 210	Script Lang for Informatics	3
IS 220	Org Systms, Struc & Retrvl	3
IS 260	Database Design & Mod for Info	3
IS 310	Human-Centered Design	3
IS 350	User Needs and Assessment	3
IS 401	Informatics Futures	3
IS 495	Informatics Capstone	3
Credit Hours Subtotal:		24
Electives		12
IS 201	Info Lit in Society	
IS 204	Navigating Social Media	
IS 290	Special Topics	
IS 490	Advanced Special Topics	
IS 496	Field Exp in Info	
IS 498	Independent Study	
Advisor Approved Elective		
Total Hours		36

Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the Informatics major is required. A C- or better is required in all courses in the major. Please see the Grades and Grade Point Average (GPA) section of this catalog for an explanation of grade point average calculations.

Prerequisites

Students should check course prerequisites to ensure a timely progression through the major coursework. Some courses allow students to concurrently take a prerequisite with a course requiring that prerequisite.

Core Designations

IS courses with Core and General Education designations may also fulfill requirements in Humanities, Social/Behavioral Sciences, Writing and/or U.S. and Global Citizenship.