

New Academic Program: MS in Information Systems (OSU Corvallis and OSU Ecampus)

Program Proposed Start Date

Spring 2026

Program Description

The Master of Science degree in Information Systems will be offered by the School of Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems in the College of Business (COB). The program will be offered in person on the Oregon State University campus in Corvallis and online through Ecampus.

The degree focuses on the design, implementation, and management of information systems and technology within organizations. The program blends technical knowledge with business acumen to equip students with the skills needed to effectively harness information technology for strategic advantage. The curriculum includes core coursework in information systems strategies, business analytics and AI, networking, systems security and application design and development. Each student will be able to pursue additional areas of specialization including geographic information science, cybersecurity management, business analytics, business fundamentals or a customized curriculum that best meets their professional and educational needs. The degree prepares graduates for careers as a systems analyst, IT project manager, database administrator, business intelligence analyst, chief information officer/chief technology officer, cloud solutions architect, business process analyst and related career paths.

Program Context

The MS in Information Systems is a novel offering in the College of Business (COB) and OSU graduate portfolio that focuses on the design, implementation and management of information systems and technology within organizations. Many peer institutions such as Colorado State and Iowa State have vibrant MSIS degree programs and Ecampus has identified this degree as an important growth opportunity for OSU in its plan to support the *Prosperity Widely Shared* target which calls for 30,000 students studying fully online by 2030 – aka 30x30.

The degree reflects the COB's movement towards master's degrees that combine the core disciplinary courses (information systems) with thematic concentrations in adjacent business/non-business areas such as cybersecurity, geographic information science, and resource/sustainability management.

There are adequate library resources to support program delivery on campus in Corvallis and online through Ecampus. OSU offers student services for academic advising; financial aid; course registration; textbook purchases; a career development center; veterans' support services; experiential learning access; tutoring and student support disability services; and mental health counseling for students in all modalities.

Program Purpose/Relationship to University Mission/Strategic Plan

The MS in Information Systems program supports the principles of OSU's strategic plan by contributing to sustainable global competitiveness and economic impact related to systems security, application design and development and networking.

January 15 - 16, 2026, Board of Trustees Meetings

Need for the Program

To our knowledge, there are no direct competitors to this program among Oregon public institutions.

Graduates of the MS in Information Systems will bring advanced technical and managerial skills to the workforce, helping to fill the demand for skilled IT professionals in Oregon's growing tech industry. The degree will enhance STEM education in Oregon, supporting the state's goal to improve science, technology, engineering and mathematics proficiency among its residents.

Graduates can participate in applied research initiatives through degree capstones that address local challenges, from cybersecurity through systems design and governance, thereby contributing to Oregon's research landscape. Further, graduates are prepared for work in the public sector to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of government services through better information systems. Information systems can be used to improve community engagement and access to information, helping to address social and economic disparities.

Program Financials

Enrollment is projected to reach 150 by five years after launch.

RECOMMENDATION

All appropriate university councils and committees and the OSU Faculty Senate have reviewed and supported the proposal. The provost recommends that the Academic Strategies Committee approve the MS in Information Systems for Spring 2026, pending the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.