Management Information Systems

Management Information Systems (MIS) combines technology with business to get people in an organization the information they need to do their jobs better, faster and smarter. Information is the lifeblood of all organizations—today more than ever. Businesses need someone who understands business and technology and can communicate effectively about both with staff and management across an organization. MIS professionals bring all these skills together to deliver practical, informed and efficient information solutions in support of an organization’s goals and objectives.

In the MIS program, you will take all the same “core” business courses as any accounting or marketing student, for example, but you will add technology skills and knowledge with courses on database, networking, systems analysis & design, Web development, and managing systems projects. And you’ll be working hands-on with state-of-the-art professional tools throughout. Then, with your professor as a coach, you’ll get a chance to apply what you’ve learned in a team project, developing a real world system for a sponsor in the local community. For example, one student team recently worked for the Tech Museum of Innovation, developing virtual exhibits, while another developed an iPad-based guest survey solution for Happy Hollow Zoo. Mayor Chuck Reed presented an MIS Honors team with a commendation from the San José City Council for a major enhancement of the Heritage Tree portion on the City’s Web site.

MIS graduates enjoy a tremendously wide range of job opportunities because the technology/business combination applies in so many ways, particularly in Silicon Valley but for non-tech companies as well. Among our alumni, job titles range from conventional to unique, from Business Systems Analyst, Project Manager, and IT Support Specialist to Services Channel Manager, Sales Engineer, and Solution Architect. And while high techs are prominent in the area, the need for information solutions cuts across all industries so we find our graduates pursuing MIS careers not only at Google, Apple and Cisco, for example, but also Alaska Airlines, Safeway, Kaiser-Permanente and even Ghiradelli Chocolate.

Thanks to the business/technology combination, MIS students are in high demand. Our graduates tend to command among the highest salaries offered to College of Business graduates across all concentrations and growth is expected to be high for the foreseeable future. The MIS profession reflects the dynamic nature of the technology that it draws from and MIS tied for first place in a recent survey of professionals in all fields, measuring job satisfaction five years after graduation.