



# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MSIT)** program offers a cross-functional perspective of information technology and its place at the heart of business operations. Designed for IT professionals with experience in the workplace, the program's unique blend of technology and business courses taught by academic professors and business executives prepares its graduates to strategically plan, implement, and manage information technology systems across industries. Founded in 1996, MSIT attracts a diverse student body of IT professionals from around the world who come together at Northwestern University's Evanston campus to learn, network, and share information about IT and its critical role in today's business environment.



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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### PROGRAM FEATURES

MS in two-years (part-time) or 10-13 months (full-time)

Intensive training in both foundational principles and emerging technologies (70 percent), and critical business and management skills (30 percent)

Considerable administrative assistance to support the working professional

Instruction from renowned Northwestern faculty and leading IT industry professionals

### FORMAT

The part-time, Saturday-only option is offered over two years, from September to June each year. Students take two courses each Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The full-time option can be completed in either 10 months (fall, winter, and spring quarters), or in 12 months (fall, winter, and spring quarters plus the following fall quarter—which allows for an optional summer internship). Full-time students take half their course load via Northwestern Engineering’s weekday offerings (primarily from the computer science and electrical and computer engineering departments) and half from the Saturday MSIT courses.

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## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

### DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

MSIT students earn a Master of Science in Information Technology by completing 12 courses through either the part- or full-time program option.

### CURRICULUM

The curriculum is 70 percent technical and 30 percent business and management, and focuses on three fundamental areas:

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Communications, networking, and cyber security

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Computing and data

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Business and management principles

Technical courses include those that teach fundamental engineering principles and those that explore newer, emerging technologies. Business courses in finance, marketing, and management provide a framework for students to understand how to better translate information technology concepts into practical business solutions. Classes typically require both individual and team-based assignments, and students have the option of conducting up to two independent study courses to replace two regular courses. Courses are rigorous and include extensive reading, homework, papers, projects, and exams.



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## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission is competitive and is based on an aggregate review of academic transcripts, work history, personal statements, letters of recommendation, additional supporting materials, and an interview. Entry into the MSIT program is granted for fall quarter only, and applications are accepted as early as September 1 of the year prior to the desired start date.

Part-time applicants may have either a technical (e.g., engineering, computer science, or telecommunications), or non-technical (e.g., business, education, or liberal arts) undergraduate degree. Part-time applicants with a technical undergraduate degree must have two years of experience working in an IT or IT-related position; applicants with a non-technical undergraduate degree must have at least four years of experience working in IT or an IT-related position.

Full-time applicants must have an electrical engineering or computer science undergraduate degree (or similar) and at least two years of experience working in an IT or IT-related position.

MSIT has a rolling admission policy, and applications will be accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis while space remains in the program.

We encourage all MSIT applicants to apply early as space in the cohort is limited to 25 to 30 students. However, applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis until all seats are filled.

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## FACULTY

MSIT faculty from academia and industry provide the range of theoretical knowledge and practical experiences that the unique curriculum of the MSIT program demands. This combination of theory and industry knowledge helps students immediately apply what they have learned directly to their work environments.

Renowned professors from the McCormick School of Engineering, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, and Northwestern's Pritzker School of Law bring their expertise to the classroom, giving MSIT students a balanced view of academic principles and practical applications. Faculty members are known for their research accomplishments and often hold leadership positions in the greater academic community.

Industry leaders also add their considerable talents to the program as adjunct faculty by bringing their professional successes and relevant experiences into the classroom. They are professionals who hold high-level executive positions in their respective organizations as well as advanced degrees, including MBAs and PhDs. They complement their teaching of academic fundamentals by sharing their experiences in leadership, problem solving, and decision-making.



## OTHER PROGRAM INFORMATION

### STUDENTS

The MSIT program uses a cohort model in which 25 to 30 students progress through the program as a group, taking the same classes together and finishing the program together. Cohorts offer the ongoing fellowship of others who are experiencing similar academic and personal challenges and rewards at the same time.

MSIT was originally designed to meet the needs of the working professional, allowing part-time students to earn a master's degree in less than two years while continuing to work full-time. Now our full-time MSIT students add their wisdom from prior full-time work and are able to earn their degree in less than one year. Indeed, the classroom experience is enriched by the questions, problems, and solutions our students bring from their current or former workplace.

Students vary in age, experience, education, industry, and position. They have backgrounds as network engineers and CTOs, in domestic

and international firms, and with community-based organizations and Fortune 500 companies. They have degrees in business, engineering, and liberal arts. This diversity of perspective, experience, and knowledge helps broaden students' outlook on the IT world and positively influences the quality of education they receive both inside and outside the classroom.

### RESOURCES

Balancing one's professional, personal, and academic life can be a challenge. MSIT students benefit from an array of services designed to help them focus on classroom and group project work instead of on non-academic duties. A dedicated staff handles matters such as class enrollment; procurement of MSIT textbooks and instructional materials; and liaison support with other Northwestern University departments, including the registrar, student accounts, financial aid, the Office of International Student and Scholar Services, IT support, and career services. The program also provides breakfast, lunch, and refreshments on Saturday class days.

### STUDY GROUPS

Students find study groups to be an invaluable part of their MSIT experience. Study groups typically meet once a week to discuss class material and homework, prepare for tests, and work on group projects. Groups also provide opportunities for students to harness multiple points of view for handling work-related IT problems, as well as to develop skills for managing group dynamics.

### CONTACT

We invite you to learn more at one of our many information sessions scheduled throughout the year. Visit [msit.northwestern.edu](https://msit.northwestern.edu) for more information, or contact the MSIT senior associate director, Abigail Shay, at 847-467-6557 or [msit@northwestern.edu](mailto:msit@northwestern.edu).



**BUSINESS COURSES IN FINANCE, MARKETING, AND MANAGEMENT PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO BETTER TRANSLATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONCEPTS INTO PRACTICAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS.**