Program Change Request

Viewing: **10KS5695PHD : Information Sciences, PhD**

Last approved: 09/07/22 11:21 am

Last edit: 08/23/23 8:43 am

Changes proposed by: Ted Underwood

Catalog Pages
Using this Program

Proposal Type:

---

**In Workflow**

1. U Program Review
2. 1992 Head
3. LP Grad Committee Chair
4. LP Committee Chair
5. LP Dean
6. University Librarian
7. Grad_College
8. COTE Programs
9. Provost
10. Senate EPC
11. Senate
12. U Senate Conf
13. Board of Trustees
14. IBHE
15. HLC
16. DOE
17. DMI

**Approval Path**

1. 04/10/23 8:50 am
   Deb Forgacs (dforgacs):
   Approved for U Program Review
2. 04/10/23 9:53 am
   Ted Underwood (tunder):
   Approved for 1992 Head
3. 04/13/23 1:43 pm
   Melissa Newell (menewell):
   Approved for LP Grad Committee Chair
4. 04/13/23 5:07 pm
   Melissa Newell (menewell):
Approved for LP Committee Chair
5. 04/13/23 6:01 pm
Ted Underwood (tunder):
Approved for LP Dean
6. 04/14/23 2:17 pm
Chris Prom (prom): Approved for University Librarian
7. 05/03/23 2:58 pm
Allison McKinney (agrindly):
Approved for Grad_College
8. 05/03/23 3:13 pm
Brenda Clevenger (bmclvrgrr):
Approved for COTE Programs
9. 08/23/23 8:34 am
Brooke Newell (bsnewell):
Approved for Provost

History
1. Feb 7, 2019 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
2. Jun 19, 2019 by Deb Forgacs (dforgacs)
3. Dec 20, 2019 by Dustin Janes (djanes3)
4. Jan 6, 2020 by Kathy Martensen (kmartens)
5. May 10, 2021 by Emily Knox (knox)
6. Sep 7, 2022 by Mary Lowry (lowry)
Major (ex. Special Education)

This proposal is for a:
Revision

Administration Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official Program Name</th>
<th>Information Sciences, PhD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diploma Title</td>
<td>Information Science, School of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor College</td>
<td>Information Science, School of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Department</td>
<td>Information Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Name</td>
<td>Ted Underwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsor Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tunder@illinois.edu">tunder@illinois.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Contact</td>
<td>Ted Underwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Contact Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tunder@illinois.edu">tunder@illinois.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does this program have inter-departmental administration?

No

Proposal Title

Effective Catalog Fall 2023

Term

Proposal Title (either Establish/Revise/Eliminate the Degree Name in Program Name in the College of XXXX, i.e., Establish the Bachelor of Science in Entomology in the College of Liberals Art and Sciences, include the Graduate College for Grad Programs)

Revise the Doctor of Philosophy in Information Sciences in the School of Information Science and the Graduate College
### Program Justification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provide a brief description of what changes are being made to the program.</th>
<th>Changes to the Doctoral Program in the School of Information Sciences, including Reduction of PhD Elective Hours; Additional of Required Course IS 529; Removal of Writing Concentration.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The overall number of PhD elective credit hours reduced from 36 to 18 for both those that enter with a BS and an MS. The composition of these credit hours remains the same in regards to the “Research/Project/Independent Study Hours 16 hour maximum” to count towards the 18 PhD elective hours.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formally adding IS 529 ProSeminar as a required course. This course is to be taken in a student's first fall and spring semester. The course is one (1) credit hour, for a total of increasing the required credit hours by two (2).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removing the Writing Concentration. To clarify - this currently does have a transcripted concentration (Writing Studies- floating) however we have contacted the unit to remove this concentration as an option. As such, the Program Features, Does this major have transcripted concentrations? will be accurate once Writing Studies revision to remove it is approved.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did the program content change 25% or more in relation to the total credit hours, since the 2020-2021 catalog. ([http://catalog.illinois.edu/archivedacademiccatalogs/2020-2021/](http://catalog.illinois.edu/archivedacademiccatalogs/2020-2021/))

No
Why are these changes necessary?

When benchmarking the other 90 PhD programs at UIUC, the PhD in Information Sciences credit hour requirements were not in alignment. Of the 90 programs, only 6 other programs required above the 64 hr minimum outlined by Graduate College. The reduction of elective hours brings us into alignment with University practices.

This change was particularly desirable for students who enter with only a Bachelors. Adding in additional required coursework, they were previously required to take 112 credit hours, a very high number. The reduction of elective credit hours brings them down to 96 required hours, which again is more in keeping with other University doctoral programs.

The ProSeminar course was developed in response to requests expressed by PhD students for more shared experiences early in their program. It has been piloted since FA 2017 and has been so successful that we want to require taking it twice.

We are removing the Writing Concentration because there has been no record of a student attempting or completing this concentration since its addition as an optional concentration to our PhD degree program in fall of 2007.

The 509 and 519 requirements are not new; those requirements already exist, although the numbers are left vague in the catalog, and this version specifies them. As a result we don't think this change alters more than 25% of total credit hours. It reduces the total number of required credit hours by 16, but that's not quite 25% of the previous program, which would have been 20 hours.

Instructional Resources

Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?

Yes

Please describe:

We are removing an optional Writing Concentration that has never been used. Communication with the Writing Studies program is attached. Note that they are probably unaware of the existence of this concentration, since to the best of our knowledge it has never been used since it was created in 2007.

Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?

No

Does the program include other courses/subjects outside of the sponsoring department impacted by the creation/revision of this program?

No

Program Regulation and Assessment

Plan to Assess and Improve Student Learning
List the program's student learning outcomes. Each outcome should identify what students are expected to know and/or be able to do upon completing this program.

These are unchanged by this review. They include

1. Understanding the history and present state of Information Science.
2. In-depth mastery of a particular field of Information Science and
3. Making a substantial, sustained contribution to the student's chosen field through dissertation research

Describe how, when, and where these learning outcomes will be assessed.

Identify faculty expectations for students' achievement of each of the stated student learning outcomes. What score, rating, or level of expertise will signify that students have met each outcome? Provide rating rubrics as necessary.

Full comprehension of the history and present state of Information Science is assessed through completion of two required courses: History of Information Science and Research Design in Information Science.

In-depth mastery of a particular field of Information Science is assessed primarily through successful passage of the field exam.

Passing the prelim exam and dissertation defense confirms that the student has made a substantial research contribution to their chosen field.

Explain the process that will be implemented to ensure that assessment results are used to improve student learning.

As explained above, all students are reviewed annually and the reviews are summarized. Faculty are also intimately involved in field exams, prelims, and dissertation defenses, and the Doctoral Study Committee reflects on patterns seen in those assessments.

**Is the career/profession for graduates of this program regulated by the State of Illinois?**

No
**Program of Study**

_Baccalaureate degree requires at least 120 semester credit hours or 180 quarter credit hours and at least 40 semester credit hours (60 quarter credit hours) in upper division courses“ (source: https://www.ibhe.org/assets/files/PublicAdminRules2017.pdf). For proposals for new bachelor’s degrees, if this minimum is not explicitly met by specifically-required 300- and/or 400-level courses, please provide information on how the upper-division hours requirement will be satisfied._

Revised programs  [ISPhDSideBySide.xlsx](#)

Attach a revised Sample Sequence (for undergraduate program)
or college-level forms.

Catalog Page Text - Overview Tab

Description of program for the catalog page. This is not official content, it is used to help build the new catalog page for the program. Can be edited in the catalog by the college or department.

Major: Information Management Degree Offered: M.S.

Major: Library and Information Science Degrees Offered: M.S., C.A.S. Graduate Concentrations: Digital Libraries (C.A.S. only)

Major: Bioinformatics Degree Offered: M.S. Graduate Concentration: Library and Information Science

Major: Information Sciences Degree Offered: Ph.D. Graduate Concentration: Writing Studies

Online Programs Degrees Offered: M.S., C.A.S. Graduate Concentration: Digital Libraries (C.A.S. only) Information Management: M.S. Library and Information Science: M.S., C.A.S.

Joint Degree Programs: Library and Information Science and African Studies; Library and Information Science and History; Library and Information Science and Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Degrees offered: M.S. and M.A.

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

**Entering with approved MS/MA degree**

**Course List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IS 509</td>
<td>History and Foundations of Information Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 519</td>
<td>Research Design in Information Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Additional Methods Course</strong></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research methods (min 8)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research/Project/Independent Study Hours (16 max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 529</td>
<td>Doctoral ProSeminar (taken twice for 1hr each time)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PhD Electives</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research/Project/Independent Study Hours (16 hrs max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-IS Courses (16 hrs max counted toward degree)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (32 hrs min applied toward degree)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Grad Other Degree Requirements

#### Requirement

Other requirements may overlap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:</td>
<td>20 hours of IS coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A minimum of two years in residence is required to complete the necessary coursework; an additional year or more, preferably in residence, is required for the thesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Entering with approved BS/BA degree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IS 509</td>
<td>History and Foundations of Information Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 519</td>
<td>Research Design in Information Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 529</td>
<td>Doctoral ProSeminar (taken twice for 1hr each time)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Methods Course</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research methods (min 8)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>M.S. equivalent (IS and non-IS hrs)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research/Project/Independent Study Hours (16 max applied toward degree)</td>
<td>0-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-IS coursework (16 hrs max applied towards degree)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research/Project/Independent Study Hours (16 max hrs applied toward degree)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IS 599</td>
<td>Thesis Research (32 min hrs applied toward degree)</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other Requirements

#### Requirement

Other requirements may overlap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum Hours Required Within the Unit:</td>
<td>20 hours of IS coursework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A minimum of two years in residence is required to complete the necessary coursework; an additional year or more, preferably in residence, is required for the thesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualifying Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary Exam Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam/Dissertation Defense Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Deposit Required</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum GPA:</td>
<td>3.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program Features

Academic Level  Graduate
Does this major have transcripted concentrations?  No
What is the typical time to completion of this program?  5 years
What are the minimum Total Credit Hours required for this program?  64 80
What is the required GPA?  3.25
CIP Code  11.0401 - 11.0401
Is This a Teacher Certification Program?  No
Will specialized accreditation be sought for this program?  No

Delivery Method

This program is available:
  On Campus - Students are required to be on campus, they may take some online courses.

Admission Requirements

Desired Effective Admissions Term
Is this revision a change to the admission status of the program?  No
Provide a brief narrative description of the admission requirements for this program. Where relevant, include information about licensure requirements, student background checks, GRE and TOEFL scores, and admission requirements for transfer students.

Unchanged

Enrollment
Describe how this revision or phase down/elimination will impact enrollment and degrees awarded. If this is an elimination/phase down proposal include the plans for the students left in the program.

We do not anticipate a significant effect on enrollment or degrees awarded. The effect is that students will complete coursework faster and have more time to work on their dissertation. Time to degree may slightly decrease, but admissions will adjust to keep enrollment relatively unaffected.

Students currently in the program will be affected and some may find they have already completed coursework and are eligible to proceed to exams.

Estimated Annual Number of Degrees Awarded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One Estimate</th>
<th>5th Year Estimate (or when fully implemented)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is the</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>matriculation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>term for this</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>program?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Budget

Are there No
budgetary implications for this revision?

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?
No

Additional Budget Information

Attach File(s)

Financial Resources

How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

The proposal will not increase expenditures. If anything, reducing the number of required credit hours to conform more closely to other programs at UIUC will reduce the burden on both students and faculty, freeing up time for other goals.

Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? No

Attach letters of support

What tuition rate do you expect to charge for this program? e.g, Undergraduate Base Tuition, or Engineering Differential, or Social Work Online (no dollar amounts necessary)
Are you seeking a change in the tuition rate or differential for this program?

   No

Is this program requesting self-supporting status?

   No

**Faculty Resources**

Please address the impact on faculty resources including any changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

Because we currently require more credit hours than other programs, doctoral students typically ask faculty to supervise multiple independent studies. This pressure on faculty resources will be slightly reduced. Class size may also be slightly reduced, but that effect may be inconsequential since the program is also continuing to grow at a modest pace.

**Library Resources**

Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.

Library collections, resources and services are sufficient to support this program revision.

**EP Documentation**

EP Control Number

Attach Rollback/Approval Notices

This proposal requires HLC inquiry

**DMI Documentation**

Attach Final Approval Notices

Banner/Codebook Name

Program Code: 10KS5695PHD
Code Code Code Code 5695

Senate Approval Date

Senate Conference Approval Date

BOT Approval Date

IBHE Approval Date

HLC Approval Date

DOE Approval Date

Effective Date:

Attached Document

Justification for this request

Program Reviewer Brooke Newell (bsnewell) (03/27/23 3:53 pm): Rollback: Email sent to Ted

Key: 355