Program Overview
Mason Engineering offers a Master of Science in Information Systems through its Department of Computer Science. This professional degree program focuses on the technical, managerial, and policy issues associated with designing, building, and maintaining information systems in organizations. Data, information, and knowledge are crucial to the modern enterprise, and the MS in Information Systems Program addresses the theoretical and engineering aspects of specifying, designing, implementing, and managing large-scale information systems.

The goals of the program are to provide: A high-quality program that allows students with diverse baccalaureate and professional backgrounds to obtain an MS in Information Systems; A technical body of knowledge that allows students to analyze, design, deploy, maintain, and manage information systems in large organizations, e.g., industry, government, and nonprofits; and A course of study that allows professionals to pursue a technical or a managerial approach to information systems.

Program Requirements
Completion of the MS in Information Systems Program requires a minimum of 30 approved graduate credits (10 courses). To provide a common background in the fundamentals of information systems, five core courses are required of all students. Five elective courses may be taken within an emphasis area or according to students’ professional interests.

Core courses include:
- Principles and Practices of Communication Networks
- Database Systems
- Information Systems Analysis and Design
- Information Security Theory and Practice

Students may choose an emphasis by taking six elective courses within an emphasis area, or students may mix and match electives according to their professional interests. Certificates may also be earned as part of the degree.

Emphasis areas:
- Database management
- Data mining
- Electronic commerce
- Software engineering
- Knowledge management
- Information security and assurance

Complementary Program:
- Information Technology, PhD
Information Systems (M.S.)

Refer to our website for more information on program course offerings and details on program requirements.

Admission Requirements

In addition to meeting the general admission requirements of the university, applicants must hold a four-year baccalaureate degree in an appropriate discipline from an accredited institution and have earned a grade point average of 3.00 or better in the last 60 credits of undergraduate study.

Foundation Courses: All applicants must have four pre-identified courses in their background to proceed with the program core courses.

- Discrete and Logical Structures for Information Systems
- Computer Organization Course and Operating Systems
- Program Design and Data Structures
- Object-Oriented Programming in Java

Applicants who do not have equivalent courses in their undergraduate course work may take the foundation courses prior to beginning graduate course work or take a test to receive a waiver. Acceptance into the program is based on overall assessment of the applicant’s potential ability to complete the program of study in a satisfactory manner. Well-qualified students with minor deficiencies may be admitted to the program in provisional status, with specific course work to be completed within a specified time.

Required application materials include:

- Online application and non-refundable fee
- Transcripts showing all post-secondary study
- Professional and Educational Goals Statement
- Two letters of recommendation from professors or senior officials at place of employment
- Self-Evaluation
- GRE scores (for applicants who have not earned at least a Bachelor’s degree from a U.S. institution)
- Resume

Additional application materials, including English proficiency examination scores (e.g., TOEFL, IELTS), are required if the applicant holds a degree from an international institution and/or requires an F-1 or J-1 visa. Visit [http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad](http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad) for details.

Special admission programs are available for Volgenau School students and alumni.

Visit our website for details: [http://cs.gmu.edu/prospective-students/ms-programs/ms-in-information-systems](http://cs.gmu.edu/prospective-students/ms-programs/ms-in-information-systems)
Apply online: [http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad/aplynow](http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad/aplynow)