



Bachelor of Arts Information Sciences and Technology (ISTBA)

A Student Guide

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**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Information Sciences and Technology
*A Student Guide***

TABLE OF CONTENTS

What is the Bachelor of Arts in Information Sciences and Technology (ISTBA)?.....	2
Who should enter the ISTBA?	2
Who should <i>not</i> enter the ISTBA?	2
What are the Program Requirements for the ISTBA?	2
Writing Your Proposal	3
Entrance to Major Requirements.....	3
Academic Program Proposal Cover Sheet.....	4
Academic Program Proposal Application	5
Semester-By-Semester Plan template	6
Amendment to Academic Program Proposal	7

What is the Bachelor of Arts in Information Sciences and Technology (ISTBA)?

The Bachelor of Arts in Information Sciences and Technology will provide students who are inherently independent and creative with new avenues of study. This degree will be one which will provide them with a thorough grounding in information sciences and technology but also the flexibility to design a curriculum of study to fit their interests and aspirations. Whether these students wish to blend information science and technology with the arts, the humanities, or with the sciences, this degree will provide them with the breadth of experience that they need to accomplish their goals. The core of the B.A. program in IST will parallel that of the B.S. degree, thus the B.A. student will be equipped with the same core expertise and tools sets that they need to be able to navigate through the increasingly complex technology landscape. However the flexibility of the curriculum will give them the opportunity to learn how to apply IT creatively. The B.A. in IST will be highly interdisciplinary, as is fitting for an expressly interdisciplinary college. The degree will be suitable for students who wish to be entrepreneurs, who seek to go on to law or medical school, or who want to acquire an advanced degree in graduate studies.

Who should enter the ISTBA?

The degree is suitable for students who wish to be entrepreneurs, who seek to go on to law or medical school, or want to acquire an advanced degree in graduate studies or another field. It is also suitable for students who wish to merge a thorough grounding in IST with another discipline, such as economics or media studies. Students can also easily incorporate a [minor\(s\)](#) as the base for the desired area of interest.

Who should *not* enter the ISTBA?

The Bachelor of Arts in Information Sciences and Technology is not designed to accommodate students who have failed entrance-to-major requirements in another major. It is also not designed to provide a major for students who have accumulated many credits as a result of changing majors several times, and have credits in unrelated disciplines, etc. If you have completed more than 60 credits of coursework, you are also not eligible.

What are the Program Requirements for the ISTBA?

A minimum of 125 credits is required.

GENERAL EDUCATION: 45 credits
(See description of General Education in front of the *Bulletin*.)

FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR:
(Included in ELECTIVES or GENERAL EDUCATION course selection)

UNITED STATES CULTURES AND INTERNATIONAL CULTURES:
(Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM:
(Included in REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR)

ELECTIVES: 15 credits

BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: 24 credits
(3 of these 24 credits are included in the REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR, GENERAL EDUCATION, or ELECTIVES and 0-12 credits are included in ELECTIVES if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR: 41 credits

PRESCRIBED COURSES (17 credits)

IST 110 GS(3)[1], IST 130 GA(3)[1], IST 210(4)[1], IST 220(3)[1] (Sem: 1-4)

IST 495(1)[1] (Sem: 3-8)

IST 440W(3)[1] (Sem: 7-8)

SUPPORTING COURSES AND RELATED AREAS (24 credits)[1]

Select 24 credits of IST and IST-related courses in consultation with academic adviser. (At least 12 credits must be at the 400 level.)

[1] A student enrolled in this major must receive a grade of C or better, as specified in Senate Policy 82-44.

Writing Your Proposal

Your proposal must include the following:

- **Proposal Cover Sheet**
- **Written Statement**
This should explain your reasons for seeking the ISTBA and carefully outline the theme or focus of your area of specialization. The written statement should also articulate the professional, scholarly, or creative goals that you wish to achieve through the major, including a specific internship position which matches your career goals.
- **Semester-by-Semester Plan**
The attached template must be completed.

Your proposal must be submitted for review by December 1 of your sophomore year. Therefore, it is important to begin work on your proposal prior to this deadline.

Entrance to Major Requirements

Students must:

1. Have achieved at least third semester classification and not greater than fourth semester classification while pursuing a program of study appropriate for entry to the major.
2. Have completed **two** of the following four courses with a grade of C or better in each: IST 110, IST 130, IST 210, and IST 220 along with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 prior and through the end of the semester in which the entrance-to-major procedure is carried out.

If your proposal is approved, and you satisfy the above requirements, you must participate in the entrance-to-major process by indicating your preference in eLion. Students are notified by e-mail to confirm their major selection preferences.

Continuous assessment is recommended.

**Any change to this proposal requires submission of
AMENDMENT to Academic Program Proposal**



**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Information Sciences and Technology
Academic Program Proposal
COVER SHEET**

The Bachelor of Arts Degree in Information Sciences and Technology allows you to work closely with IST faculty to develop a plan of study that meets the dual objective of allowing a flexible academic program and providing breadth of specialization in your area of interest.

Student Name _____ PSU ID 9-_____

Please note that you must have the support of your adviser and an IST faculty member, as their signatures are required on the Proposal Form.

Please attach the following completed documents to this sheet:

- Academic Program Proposal Application
- Attach a separate page with a statement which articulates the professional, scholarly, or creative goals that you wish to achieve through the major, including a specific internship position which matches your career goals.
- Semester-by-Semester Plan

Submit the above required documents to the IST Undergraduate Advising Center, Attn: Jeanie Peritz, 104 IST Building for processing. **Incomplete proposals will not be accepted.**

Your proposal must be submitted for review by December 1 of your sophomore year. You will be notified of a decision by February 1. If your proposal is denied, you will not be eligible to pursue the ISTBA.

Any change to this proposal requires submission of an **Amendment to Academic Program Proposal.**



**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Information Sciences and Technology
Academic Program Proposal Application**

Student Name _____ PSU ID 9- _____ ETM pool _____

E-mail _____@psu.edu Phone _____

With your adviser's support and with the concurrence of an IST faculty member, list the courses that will satisfy 24.0 credits of required supporting course work. **These courses must follow a coherent theme.**

400-level courses (at least 12.0 credits)

Additional courses (up to 12.0 credits, any level)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Any change to this proposal requires submission of an *Amendment to Academic Program Proposal*.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Adviser Signature _____ Date _____
or IST Campus Champion

Faculty Signature _____ Date _____

Comments _____

***** *IST Undergraduate Advising Center Use Only* *****

Reviewed by: _____
 Initials date

Entered by: _____
 Initials date

Comments:



Bachelor of Arts in Information Sciences and Technology
Semester-By-Semester Plan

First Name: Last Name: Date:

Student Number: 9 - Intended Minor(s): (if applicable):

Table with 4 rows and 3 columns. Each cell contains a grid for course planning with 'Fall:', 'Spring:', and 'Summer:' labels and 'Total Credits:' at the bottom of each grid.

Total Credits for ISTBA:



**Bachelor of Arts Degree in Information Sciences and Technology
AMENDMENT to Academic Program Proposal**

Consult with an IST academic adviser before completing this form.

Student Name _____ PSU ID 9- _____

E-mail _____@psu.edu Phone _____

List the previously approved supporting course that you will no longer be taking and indicate why you are altering your plan of study at this time. List the new supporting course that you will be taking and explain how it relates to your approved theme of study. Once completed, return this form to Jeanie Peritz, Administrative Director of Undergraduate Advising Center, 104 IST Building for review. **Incomplete forms will not be accepted.** You will be notified of decision by email.

Describe your theme of study: _____

Previously Approved Course: (credits)

New Course to be taken: (credits)

_____ ()

_____ ()

Explanation for change: _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Adviser Signature _____ Date _____
or IST Campus Champion

Faculty Signature _____ Date _____

Comments _____

***** *IST Undergraduate Advising Center Use Only* *****

Reviewed by: _____ Initials date Entered by: _____ Initials date

Comments:
