WHAT’S IST?

IST is the “you” in YouTube and the “smart” in smartphone. It’s the music you just downloaded. It’s the calls you get from your BFFs. It can make you twitter. It can be your friend. It’s video gaming, medical information, business management, and government security. It’s people coming together with the technology that we all use every day. THAT’S IST.
That's IST.

Why do you like what you like? What makes some video games awesome and some just so-so? Information sciences and technology means figuring out how people use technology, at work or just for fun.

What does the business need and what do customers need? How do business owners find ways to cut expenses without losing employees or lowering the quality of a product? IST means taking information from businesses and analyzing it to find solutions.
Do you feel safe when you’re online? Someone’s always getting paid big bucks to hack into databases. IST means creating and managing information systems to help industry and government agencies stop hackers, identity thieves, and other cyber criminals.

If you’re interested in doing cyber detective work to find out how and why security breaches happen and who is responsible, you can plan a career in security and risk analysis. If you feel comfortable with the web and have an understanding of computer operating systems, you can step into a field that’s always changing, helping you develop ways to think outside the laptop.
If you can Facebook, YouTube, and tweet, you can IST.

ist.psu.edu
What are the most efficient ways for corporations to keep track of things?
Corporations are huge. Imagine the information processed by all the employees in global corporations every minute of every day. IST means keeping information from lots of places organized so that companies can keep moving forward.

How can healthcare systems keep running smoothly? It takes time and information for a cure to be discovered. IST means helping doctors and researchers use technology to manage information about diseases as well as helping hospitals and health insurance agencies keep track of patient information.
You’ll be taking on challenges that make a difference in the world—you’ll solve problems and work with people, connecting them with information through the use of technology. THAT’S IST.
**IST at Penn State**  Students in Penn State’s College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) love solving problems and working with people. People are all connected by technology, whether it’s texting, searching for information, ordering pizza online, or setting the alarm for a 6:00 a.m. FaceTime video call on your iPhone with a friend who’s in another country and time zone.

The **College of IST will show you** how far you can go as a problem solver, someone who can make other people understand how technology connects us all, so that we can make it work for us. **THAT’S IST at Penn State.**

"I was really looking for a school that did a lot of work with computers and people and brought them together. That’s IST’s mantra."

**That’s IST.**
IST courses center on teamwork and projects about real-life situations and issues. You’ll make friends with your fellow students as you work through your courses together. Professors have experience with business, industry, and government along with working on academic research. They have a passion for IST because they know that with your education, you’ll be able to make your future whatever you want it to be. And when it’s time to graduate, you’ll be in demand. You can expect an impressive starting salary and lots of choices of where to work. **THAT’S IST** at Penn State.

“**The beauty of IST is that not only do we understand how to use and develop technologies, but also how to communicate them to a nontechnical audience.**”

“**In high school I developed an interest in technology. I loved working with Photoshop and PowerPoint, and I really enjoyed bringing art and technology together.**”

**Typical starting salary for a graduate with a 3.0 grade-point average is $55,100.**
You'll discover a lot about your future as you take your courses, earning a Penn State degree in either information sciences and technology or security and risk analysis through the College of IST. If you like working with people and discovering how technology can help them manage information and work more efficiently—and have more fun—take a look at what we offer. Check for details at ist.psu.edu. We think you'll agree with us when we say: IST ROCKS!

Baccalaureate Majors

Information Sciences and Technology

Bachelor of Science—The IST bachelor of science degree program integrates skills connected with people, information, and technology. The program helps students prepare for careers connected with the ways people create, modify, and use information technologies and how those technologies affect individuals, organizations, and society. The ISTBS program covers topics from software development to social media to business applications for technology. You will feel prepared to step into a career, full speed ahead, after learning to solve real-life issues from many different angles.

Bachelor of Arts—The IST bachelor of arts degree program shows students how to combine technology with the arts, humanities, social sciences, and other similar areas. In the ISTBA program, you’ll work with an academic adviser to design your own course plan based on your particular interests and skills. Examples of study areas include communication arts and sciences, pre-law, and health policy administration.

Security and Risk Analysis

Bachelor of Science—if you’re interested in the Security and Risk Analysis (SRA) major, you can expect to learn how to design systems that are secure, how to measure risk, and how to ensure that proper levels of privacy are maintained for individual technology users, businesses, government, and other organizations. The SRA major requires an understanding of operating system design and operation, and the legal and cultural issues surrounding privacy, intelligence, and security.

Not all options in the IST and SRA majors are available at every campus. Contact the campus you’re interested in to find out which options are available. You can also check out Undergraduate Admissions at admissions.psu.edu and the Penn State Undergraduate Bulletin at bulletins.psu.edu for more information.

Associate Major

Information Sciences and Technology

IST’s associate degree program (2IST) helps you prepare for a career in the broad disciplines of information sciences and technology. Graduates go into fields such as application programming, network management, and web design. The program is offered at various Penn State campuses and can be used as a step toward a bachelor’s degree.

Minors

Global Security

Information Sciences and Technology for ...

Aerospace Engineering

Communication Arts and Sciences

Earth and Mineral Sciences

Industrial Engineering

Employment Relations

Mathematics

Telecommunications

Health Policy and Administration

Information Sciences and Technology

Security and Risk Analysis

Supply Chain and Information Sciences and Technology

Internships

You may have heard that internships are a key to getting a job after college. All students in the College of IST are required to complete an internship before graduation. The college’s Career Solutions team works with students to find internships, which usually are paid and taken during the summer. Internships are available at major companies and smaller business throughout the country, ranging from corporations such as General Electric and Johnson & Johnson to government agencies such as the CIA to financial institutions to business consulting firms. Depending on your particular interest within IST, the college can help you find a perfect fit.
A Wall Street Journal survey named Penn State the No. 1 place that corporations go to find new employees. Job recruiters were asked to identify the schools “whose bachelor degree graduates were the best-trained and educated, and best able to succeed once hired.”

Careers

Job recruiters go crazy for Penn State IST graduates. Our graduates get hired for careers in business, consulting, government, health care, and more. The placement rate for our graduates has been between 82 and 95 percent for the past seven years.

You read that right—our graduates get jobs.

Most students who earn at least a B average start at a salary of more than $55,000, with possible signing bonuses averaging about $4,000. If you’re interested in IST, you easily can do the math there. Where are IST graduates working? All over the world, and many have jobs in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Washington, D.C.

You’ll have lots of career advice to keep you focused on your career as you move toward graduation. The College of IST has a variety of resources, including career counselors and online job search sites. Careers in IST include all aspects of business, consulting, cyber security, information management, and the list goes on. See: ist.psu.edu/careers.
Faculty

A faculty member who describes herself as "part nerd/part athlete" studies ways of using gaming technologies to improve health and wellness. Another studies cyber law and regulations. Another conducts research about geographical mapping.

Because IST is an area that draws from a lot of fields, the faculty has experience in areas from astrophysics to cyber terrorism to organizational psychology to health policy. But they all have one thing in common when they teach: They all care about exploring your passion for people, information, and technology. Their goal is to help you learn how to use technology to make a difference in our digital world, no matter what area you focus on.

Our faculty’s research improves our understanding of how information and technology fundamentally impact (and are impacted by) people, organizations, and the global community.

Facilities

— 199,000 square feet inspired by the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, Italy
— State-of-the-art telecommunications and multimedia equipment
— Classrooms with the latest technology for individual and group learning
— Visualization laboratory, which has 3D full-immersion capabilities, used by researchers to study new ways to view and conceptualize data and information
— Open gathering spaces to encourage collaboration
— Building-wide wireless capabilities
Student Life

Work hard on your schoolwork but remember to take some free time, too. You can find student organizations that match your interests through IST and across the University. If you don’t find something that you like, start your own student organization. Besides enjoying yourself, you’ll be meeting other students and developing your leadership and teamwork skills. And oh, yeah, we have a pretty good football team, along with many other varsity and intramural sports. Our fitness facilities help keep students healthy while they’re getting smarter.

IST student organizations
ist.psu.edu/studentorgs

Academic Committee
Computer Networking Club
Diversity Network
Enterprise Architecture Club
Field Trip Committee
Future Forum Committee
Game Design Club
Information Assurance Club
Consulting Club
IST Diplomats
IST Honors Society
IST Special Living Option
IST Student Government
Magazine of IST (MIST)
Night of Honors Committee
Outreach Committee
Professional Expo Committee
Security and Risk Analysis Club
IST THON Committee
Women in IST (WIST)

Are you ready to connect with IST? Visit the Penn State campus you’re interested in attending.

See: ist.psu.edu/future-students
E-mail: futurestudents@ist.psu.edu

Admission

IST and Penn State hold several events at University Park for prospective students, including Open House and Spend a Summer Day. You can also schedule an individual or group visit to any of the Penn State campuses through the Undergraduate Admissions Office. See: admissions.psu.edu/pennstate/visit.

For information about offerings at other Penn State campuses, check out our campus page, accessible from ist.psu.edu/future-students/visit.

For information about how to apply to Penn State, visit the Admissions website at admissions.psu.edu. (We recommend that you apply to Penn State between August 1 and November 30 of your senior year in high school. You’ll need to send your SAT/ACT scores and high school transcript by November 30. This and much more information is available to you on the Admissions website)

To view frequently asked questions, go to ist.psu.edu/future-students/faq.
Parents and families should visit ist.psu.edu/future-students/parents.

ist.psu.edu

Student aid—Several scholarships are available to College of IST students. If you have questions about IST scholarships, e-mail scholarships@ist.psu.edu. Visit www.psu.edu/studentaid for more general information about scholarships and other types of student financial aid.

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