What does it take to be an IST student?

• Do you like to learn about the inner workings of technology (social networking, computer games, digital photography) and enjoy collaborating with people?

• Do you like to solve problems?

• Do you like to work on real-world situations with industry-sponsored projects?

IST students take on challenges that make a difference in the world—they solve problems and work with people, connecting them with information through the use of technology.

What about IST faculty?

IST is an area that draws from a lot of fields and therefore, our faculty have experience in areas from astrophysics to cyber terrorism to organizational psychology to health policy. Our faculty care about exploring your passion for people, information, and technology and teaching you how to use technology to make a difference in our digital world, no matter what area you focus on.

What are the job opportunities like?

Job recruiters go crazy for Penn State IST graduates! IST employment rates since 2007 average 86 percent.

Graduates frequently get signing bonuses in the $4,907 range when they are hired.

The average starting salary for an IST graduate is $62,704.

What will you do when you graduate?

Virtual anything! IST graduates are hired everywhere:

Business
Consulting
Cyber security
Entertainment industry
Financial services
Government agencies
Health systems
Information management
Manufacturing
National defense contracting
Project management
Telecommunications
Web development
INFORMATION SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY
Bachelor of Science
The Information Sciences and Technology (IST) bachelor of science degree program helps organizations achieve strategic goals by bridging technology solutions with user requirements. This includes skill sets in project management, programming, entrepreneurial thinking, social understanding, and application development.

Design and Development Option
This option teaches you how to design software and integrate information technologies to meet a group of people’s specific need. Students in this option work on projects such as developing applications for iPhones and other devices.

Integration and Application Option
In this option, students examine how information technology can enable and support how work is accomplished within and between businesses. Students analyze the needs of an organization, formulate and implement technology-based solutions, and evaluate the outcomes. Students in this option also work on projects such as designing a software application to store genetic information used by scientists.

Information Context Option
This option explores how technology impacts organizations and society. You will study how businesses and other organizations use technology in their processes—such as how Starbucks uses Twitter and other social media to promote its brand and marketing messages.

SECURITY AND RISK ANALYSIS
Bachelor of Science
The Security and Risk Analysis (SRA) major helps students protect organizational information, people, and other assets by applying principles of risk management. This includes skill sets in risk analysis, threat identification, risk control strategies, decision making, emergency response, and intelligence analysis.

Information and Cyber Security Option
Understand how to deal with security and privacy concerns in all types of organizations; ensure that computer systems and products are secure; and learn how to “police” cyberspace.

Intelligence Analysis and Modeling Option
As people continue to shift more of their business and personal interactions to the Internet, the need for professionals who can keep information and data secure is growing. This option teaches students how to deal with security and privacy concerns in all types of organizations, and make sure that computer operating systems and related products are secure.

Social Factors and Risk Option
In this option, students explore the psychological and sociological causes of terrorism and crime, and how information technology is transforming each. In the classroom, students work on teams in which they role-play both terrorists and criminals and the intelligence and security officers combating them. This option also examines the privacy policies and legal regulations within companies and the government.

Bachelor of Arts
The IST bachelor of arts (ISTBA) 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.

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.

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. Besides enjoying yourself, you’ll be meeting other students and developing your leadership and teamwork skills.

IST STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
ist.psu.edu/studentorgs
Academic Committee
Diversity Network
Enterprise Architecture Club
Field Trip Committee
Future Forum Committee
Game Development Club
Information Assurance Club
IST Club
IST Consulting Club
IST Diplomats
IST For the Kids
IST Honors Society
IST Server Administrators Club
IST Special Living Option
IST Student Administrators
Night of Honors Committee
Outreach Committee
Professional Expo Committee
Red Cell Analytics Lab
Security and Risk Analysis Club
Women in IST

For more information on these programs, visit: ist.psu.edu

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Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

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