Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences and Technology (ISTBS)

Are you ready to become an expert at using technology to solve real-world challenges, to stay ahead of the trends, keep your skill set sharp, and hit the ground running as a leader in your field after college? Then let’s talk about a bachelor of science in information sciences and technology (IST).

In the IST program, you’ll focus on how people create, improve, and use technologies in their everyday lives—at work, at home, in businesses big and small, in the media, and the government. And you’ll learn to analyze how these technologies impact the world at large, and what you can do with this information to make a difference.

The possibilities for what you can study in IST are numerous, but we can help you break it down. When you major in IST, you’ll choose one of three program options based on your unique skills and interests:

**CREATE!**
(Information Systems: Design and Development)

Is your brain buzzing with ideas for the next big app? Are you good at coding and working with new systems? Is winning a hackathon on your bucket list? If you answered yes, you’ll want to check out this option. With this course of study, you’ll design software, develop applications for smartphones, become an ace at troubleshooting, and solve complex technology challenges. We’ll be seeing your name on a *Forbes* tech list soon!

**STRATEGIZE!**
(Information Technology: Integration and Application)

Do you have a “big picture” mindset? Do your career goals involve a “C” level position? Do you enjoy problem solving? If so, this option is
for you! In this program, you’ll look at the role of information technology within and between businesses. You’ll analyze the needs of an organization, formulate and implement technology-based solutions, and evaluate the outcomes. You’ll be revolutionizing the way business is done, one Fortune 500 company at a time.

**INNOVATE!**  
*(Information Context: People, Organizations, and Society)*

Do you find yourself observing how and why people around you are using their smartphones and ponder what this means for how we’ll communicate in years to come? Do you use social media to promote causes that are important to you? Can you think of better uses for technology that already exists? If this sounds familiar, you’ve come to the right place! In this option, you’ll study how organizations use information technology. And you’ll be encouraged to think creatively and pursue opportunities that allow you to see firsthand how people, information, and technology interact. In short, you’ll help shape the future through technology!

The fine print: IST students officially declare an academic major and option during the second semester of their sophomore year. In order to enter the ISTBS program, you must earn a grade of “C” or better in the courses listed to the right.

For more information:  
explore.ist.psu.edu  
futurestudents@ist.psu.edu  
866-225-8707

Like what you’ve read so far? If you’re curious about the classes you’ll be taking, here’s a little more info on our core courses:

**IST 110: Information, People, and Technology**  
From buying music online to posting photos on Facebook, you use technology every day to communicate. This is the world we live in—the information environment. This course introduces you to the landscape of IST—where information, people, and technology intersect. It addresses major questions such as: How can technology help people and organizations adapt rapidly and creatively? How do people perceive technology and those who work in the information technology field?

**IST 210: Organization of Data**  
Where would you go to buy textbooks online from other students? How does a company that develops websites for carpooling and football ticket sales keep track of its inventory? This course introduces you to the storage, retrieval, manipulation, analysis, and display of information. You’ll learn to use commercial database systems such as Oracle.

**IST 220: Networking and Telecommunications**  
Whether in a coffee shop, library, or in your own home, chances are you’ve used Wireless Internet somewhere. How do these networks stay up and running? In this course, you’ll learn about digital networking and telecommunications and their applications in information systems.