

College of Information Department of Information Science INFORMATION SCIENCE PH.D. PROGRAM

Innovation *through* Information

“ Both the master’s and the IS Ph.D. programs have challenged me to examine the field of school library research through the lens of advocacy, service, and leadership. My academic experiences created purposeful collaborative opportunities with my major professor and members of my doctoral committee that I truly treasured. The program has gifted me with appropriate and transferable toolsets and mindsets that have enriched my research, information management skills, and written and oral communication. The IS Ph.D. program and approaches to linking paths enable me to serve society in academic and research roles.”

DIANE GILL
Ph.D. ('23)
LIS Professor



About the Program

The University of North Texas (UNT) Information Science (IS) Ph.D. Program responds to the varied and changing needs of the information age. It also recognizes the increasingly vital role of information and information technologies in individual, social, economic and cultural affairs.

The mission of the IS Ph.D. Program is to provide a center of excellence in graduate education and research. The goal of the program is to prepare students to contribute to the advancement and evolution of the information society in a variety of roles and settings as administrators, researchers and educators. The program emphasizes the interrelationship of the economic, social, cultural and technological aspects of an evolving information society. The intent is to unify knowledge systems, problem-solving approaches and research methodologies regardless of their disciplinary roots, and to produce graduates who will be leaders in the information age.

Students are encouraged to expand and refocus their expertise and skills in cutting-edge areas of information science that cross disciplinary boundaries. The multifaceted nature of information science warrants the focus of resources, courses and faculties from a broad range of academic units.

The Information Science Ph.D. Program collaborates with faculty from various academic units such as Behavioral Analysis, Communication Studies, Computer Science and Engineering, Criminal Justice, Information Technology and Decision Sciences, Journalism, Public Health, Linguistics, Learning Technologies, Merchandising, Hospitality, and Tourism.

WHAT OUR PROGRAM OFFERS

- **A program structure with participation from multiple academic departments.**
- **Flexible degree plans tailored to individual interests or specialized concentrations.**
- **High level of faculty-student interaction with excellent research faculty serving as instructors and advisors.**
- **A culturally and ethnically diverse community of faculty and students.**
- **Competitive scholarships, fellowship, and assistantship opportunities.**
- **Only 18 credit hours of face-to-face core courses are required for students enrolled in the traditional format of our program. It is possible to complete the remainder of coursework online.**

CONCENTRATIONS

- **Consumer Behavior & Experience Management ***
- **Cybersecurity ***
- **Data Science * +**
- **Geospatial Information Science ***
- **Health Informatics ***
- **Journalism ***
- **Linguistics ***
- **Knowledge Management ***

* Traditional Format— Students take a blend of online and face-to-face courses in Denton.

+ Executive Format— Core courses are offered in a hybrid format (3 face-to-face meetings in Frisco, with remainder online). Remaining coursework can be completed online.

APPLY TO THE INFORMATION SCIENCE PH.D. PROGRAM

Scan the QR code to see application
deadlines and requirements as well as
eligibility criteria.



Program Requirements

There are **two** doctoral program options:

- 60 credit hours for students with a completed master's degree in any discipline
- 72 credit hours for students without a master's degree

Additional courses above the 60 or 72 hours may be stipulated as needed (e.g. leveling courses). Although the 18 credit hours of required core courses are delivered on the Denton campus, other courses may be offered online and students may also transfer courses taken at other institutions to UNT, with advisor approval.

Degree plans are planned and approved under faculty supervision. One-to-one advising accommodates the wide-spread backgrounds and interests of students by helping them develop programs tailored to their interests.

PROGRAM STAGES INCLUDE:

1. Coursework Stage

- Coursework for 60 credit hours program (students with a completed Master's degree):** Minimum of 48 credit hours of (1) core courses, (2) electives, and (3) courses in broad areas of emphasis (information and behavior, information theory and design, information policy and management) for general program of study or concentrations for specializations.
- Coursework for 72 credit hours program (students without a completed Master's degree):** Minimum of 60 credit hours of (1) core courses, (2) electives, and (3) courses in broad areas of emphasis (information and behavior, information theory and design, information policy and management) for general program of study or concentrations for specializations.

2. Qualifying Examination Stage: Comprehensive written exam followed by a public defense.

3. Dissertation Proposal Stage: Detailed description of the research to be conducted, presented in a public defense.

4. Dissertation Stage: Final dissertation research presented in a public defense.



"I am lucky to have been a part of the UNT Information Science Ph.D. program. The program provided me an interdisciplinary education and allowed me opportunities that I may not have received elsewhere. I was able to work side by side with the professors on research, gain hands on teaching experience, and present research at national and international conferences. The faculty and staff in the Information Science department provided travel support and funding for me to attend multiple conferences, where I was able to present research and network with hiring managers. I was able to excel in my career because of the education and experiences I acquired from the Information Science Ph.D. program. The faculty continue to be my mentors even after graduation and I will be forever indebted to them for all the help and support they provided me."

HAMMAD KHAN, Ph.D. ('21)
Data Management Librarian

Research Resources

Meet our Faculty



- ◆ The **Intelligent Information Access (IIA) Lab** explores effective and efficient methods for access, interaction and analysis of large, distributed, heterogeneous, multimedia and multilingual information.
- ◆ The **Data Innovation Lab (DIL)** is interested in applying/developing novel interdisciplinary research methods to tackle data-driven problems & exploring data-driven methodology in evidence-based information science research & practice.
- ◆ The **Visual Thinking Lab (VTL)** explores the ways humans interact with the territory at the juncture of image and meaning.
- ◆ The **Center for Information and Computer Security (CICS)** is an interdisciplinary center, bringing together individuals and organizations with an interest in the areas of information security, computer security, information assurance, and cybercrime.
- ◆ The **Multiple Literacies Lab** enables the acquisition of multiple literacy skills through research & evidence-based practice.
- ◆ The **UNT Libraries** system has been designated as a major research library. It offers a full range of resources and services, including print and electronic reference, interlibrary loan, document delivery, and bibliographic instruction. The system holds a large monographic, serial and audiovisual collection. UNT boasts a sizeable institutional repository, a data repository, and one of the fastest growing digital libraries in the nation.
- ◆ The **Data Visualization and Extreme Reality (DVXR)** Lab provides visualization solutions for a wide range of data sets in a collaborative, interdisciplinary, and interactive environment

Ph.D. Student Research



About UNT

The University of North Texas, established in 1890, is one of the largest student-focused public research universities, dedicated to providing superior graduate education, scholarship and artistic endeavors. Ranked a Tier One research university, UNT is a catalyst for creativity — fueling progress, innovation and entrepreneurship. Our programs are internationally recognized with research and scholarship spanning all disciplines. We offer 109 bachelor's, 94 master's and 36 doctoral degrees. UNT is located in Denton, a city about 30 miles north of Dallas and Fort Worth.

For more information, visit www.unt.edu



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