

Information Systems Program

Progress Report



College of Information Technology and Engineering
November 2007

Program Review

Marshall University

May 2006

Date: February 15, 2008

Progress Report

Program: M.S Information Systems

Degree and Title

Date of Last Review: December 2006

Recommendation

Marshall University is obligated to recommend continuance or discontinuance of a program and to provide a brief rationale for the recommendation.

Recommendation

Code(#):

1. Continuation of the program at the current level of activity; or
2. Continuation of the program with **corrective action**: Corrective action will apply to programs that have deficiencies that the program itself can address and correct. **Progress report due by November 1 next academic year**; or
3. Identification of the program for **resource development**: Resource development will apply to already viable programs that require additional resources from the Administration to help achieve their full potential. This designation is considered an investment in a viable program as opposed to addressing issues of a weak program. **Progress report due by November 1 next academic year**; or
4. Continuation of the program at the current level of activity, with the designation as a program of excellence (See Series 11 Statement from the Policy Commission); or
5. Discontinuance of the program (Procedures outlined in HEPC Administrative Bulletin 23).

Rationale for Recommendation: (Deans, please submit the rationale as a separate document. Beyond the College level, any office that disagrees with the previous recommendation must submit a separate rationale and append it to this document with appropriate signature.)

#1
Recommendation: Signature of person preparing the report: _____ Date: _____

#1
Recommendation: Signature of Program Chair: _____ Date: _____

#1
Recommendation: Signature of Academic Dean: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation: Signature of Chair, Academic Planning Committee: (Baccalaureate pgms only) _____ Date: _____

Recommendation: Signature of President, Faculty Senate/ Chair, Graduate Council: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation: Signature of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation: Signature of the President: _____ Date: _____

Recommendation: Signature of Chair, Board of Governors: _____ Date: _____

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Date Created: March 2002; Revised: 2/27/2008

Office of Program Review and Assessment, Marshall University, Huntington, WV 25755-2003

College/School Dean's Recommendation

Deans, please indicate your recommendation and submit the rationale.

Recommendation: Masters of Science in Information Systems.

CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM AT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF ACTIVITY

Rationale:

(If you recommend a program for further development identify all areas for specific development; if you recommend a program as a *program of excellence* address all criteria listed in HEPC Series 11)

The progress report outlines the efforts that have been undertaken by the MS Information Systems program to improve enrollments. The advisory committee was bullish regarding the future and potential of the program.

As indicated in the table on page 4, enrollments have improved considerably over the past year. The improving job market may have contributed to the improvement in enrollments.

Signature of the Dean:

_____ Date: _____

Introduction

Marshall University's Information Systems Program is continuing to respond to the needs of residents and employers for graduate information technology education. This progress report provides an update of efforts since last year's program review.

2006 Program Review

Following its 2006 review of the Information Systems Program, the Board of Governors requested this progress report. These were issues of concern:

- An advisory committee
- Alignment with employers' needs
- Enrollment

Advisory Committee

The Information System Program's Advisory Committee is composed of information technology professionals from a variety of employers in the Charleston-Huntington area, including both the private and public sectors and some alumni of the Program. The following have committed to serve on the Advisory Committee, and we expect to add others before the Committee's fall meeting the last week of November, 2007.

Rick Bird, Vice President, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Southern WV
Kevin Hall, President, Rev Interactive
Keith Morgan, Consulting Services, Arnett and Foster
Beth Ann Surber, CIO, WV Secretary of State Offices
Allen Taylor, Chief Technology Officer, Marshall University
Darlene Thomas, CTO, DHHR
Person to be named, Strictly Business Computer Systems

Alignment with Industry

The Information Systems Program was begun at the West Virginia Graduate College in 1977 to provide local business, industry, and government with

employees who are effective users, designers, and developers of information systems. In the ten years since the merger of Marshall University and the Graduate College, 153 people have graduated from the IS Program. Nearly half of these graduates were employed locally while pursuing their degrees and most of those continue as a part of the area's high-tech work force.

Since submission of the 2006 Program Review, the Program has made some curriculum changes and is asking the Advisory Committee's advice on additional modifications. One adopted change is College-wide: students no longer take TE 698 - *Comprehensive Project Formulation*. The development of a project proposal is now a part of TE 699 - *Comprehensive Project*. Other elements of TE 698 are presented at the beginning of students' programs in a required but non-credit course they complete on-line.

Another enhancement to the curriculum is a response to the needs of today's organizations for security of their computer systems. The Program's approval to deliver security courses for federal employees has been renewed to 2010. This semester the Program is seeking University approval for an additional course in security and for a certificate in security. We expect some who complete the certificate program will decide to continue their studies and pursue the master's degree.

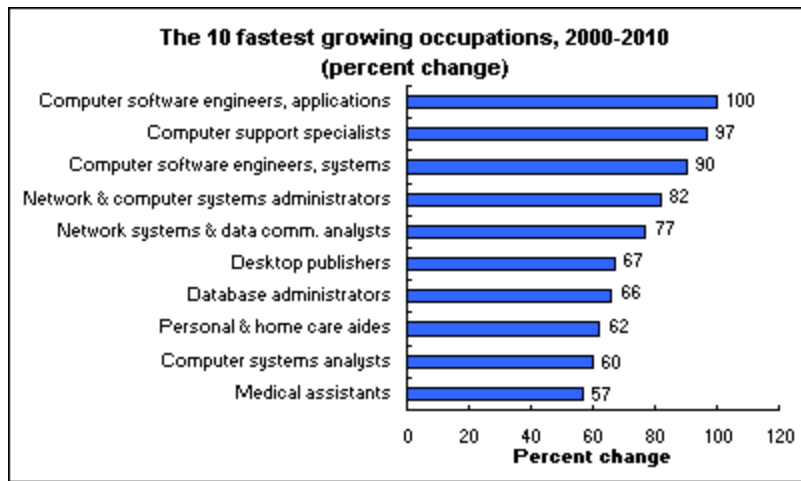
Several of the Program's offerings, including the security courses, are delivered online. Offering the entire degree program online is an option for us to pursue. We are seeking suggestions from students and from the Advisory Committee.

Providing areas of emphasis including health service information systems and online information systems is another curriculum option we are investigating and for which the Advisory Committee's direction will be especially helpful.

Enrollment

Many factors affect university enrollments. Nationally, enrollments in information technology programs have declined in recent years even as job opportunities have increased. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projections in the chart below show that employment opportunities for IS Program graduates are

among the fastest growing nationally.



Source: <http://www.bls.gov/opub/ed/2001/dec/wk1/art02.htm> (October 30, 2007)

The improving job market may have contributed to this year’s turn around in IS Program enrollments. The table below shows total fall semester course enrollments over the past five years. The 75 course enrollees this fall is the second largest number for a graduate program in the College of Information Technology and Engineering. Program faculty believe advertising and promotion could increase enrollments further, but so far few resources have been available for those efforts.

Information Systems Program Fall Course Enrollments

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Enrollments	156	113	87	56	75

Not included in the fall enrollment are 20 people in the Information Systems Program’s CIO class for State government employees. This class meets one Friday of each month from October through June. We expect this course to attract some participants to master’s degree and certificate programs in the College.