

4.18.2024

Proposed change to reduce the number of credit hours required to complete the Bachelor of Information Technology and Management degree from 127 to 121 credit hours

This proposal is attached and was approved by the faculty of the Department of Information Technology and Management on a vote of 8-0 on April 18, 2024.


Ray Trygstad

4.15.2024

Proposed Change to the Bachelor of Information Technology and Management

Background: The university has approved a reduction in the minimum number of credit hours required to earn a bachelor's degree from 126 credit hours to 120 credit hours. This is in line with most colleges and universities in the United States, and our current higher requirement affects Illinois Tech's competitiveness in seeking undergraduate candidates. Departments have been actively encouraged to reduce the number of credit hours required to complete degrees and many have already done so.

Proposal: Reduce the hours required to complete the Bachelor of Information Technology and Management from 126 credit hours to 121 credit hours by eliminating the current six hours of free elective credit, and changing the current minor requirement to 15 credit hours of minor, technical, or free electives. This will eliminate the minor requirement within the degree, but students will still be encouraged to complete a minor. Total hours to complete the degree cannot be reduced to 120 due to the 10 credit hour science requirement. It would be disingenuous to set the minor, technical, or free elective credit hours to 14 to reach 120 hours, because this would not allow student to meet the minor requirement, and because credit hour requirements in less than multiples of three are unrealistic.

We are not seeking to do the same for the Bachelor of Science in Applied Cybersecurity and Information Technology as there are only three credit hours of free electives and only six credit hours of major electives in the degree, and it is not fair to students to allow no free or major electives in a program.

The *Bulletin* entry reflecting this change to the Bachelor of Information Technology and Management is attached. There are also some changes to suggested minors to remove minors that are no longer offered and to reflect actual advising practices in the department.



Ray

BACHELOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT

Program for First-Year Students

All students must complete a minimum of 36 credit hours of courses with a significant written and oral communication component, identified with a (C) in the bulletin; 12 credit hours of (C)-coded courses must be taken in the major.

ITM students are encouraged to complete a minor and if selecting a minor are strongly encouraged to consider those which complement their primary program of study; these include (but are not limited to) business, industrial technology, **computer architecture**, **software engineering**, **supply chain management**, and ROTC. Courses taken to fulfill a minor requirement may not also be used as electives in the major.

A maximum of nine credit hours of ITM graduate courses taken as an undergraduate may be applied to the Master of Information Technology and Management degree, and any graduate courses taken to fulfill undergraduate degree requirements may not also be applied to a graduate degree unless the student is enrolled in a co-terminal or accelerated master's degree program.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Credit Hours
ITM Requirements		(42)
ITM 301	Introduction to Contemporary Operating Systems and Hardware I	3
ITM 303	Introduction to Contemporary Operating Systems and Hardware II	3
ITM 311	Introduction to Software Development	3
ITM 313	Introduction to Open Source Application Development	3
or ITM 312	Introduction to Systems Software Programming	
ITMD 321	Data Modeling and Applications	3
ITMD 361	Fundamentals of Web Development	3
ITMD 362	Human-Computer Interaction and Web Design	3
ITMD 411	Intermediate Software Development	3
ITMM 471	Project Management for Information Technology and Management	3
ITMO 340	Introduction to Data Networks and the Internet	3
ITMO 356	Introduction to Open Source Operating Systems	3
ITMS 448	Cyber Security Technologies	3
ITMT 330	Introduction to Information Systems and the IT Profession	3
ITMT 430	System Integration	3
ITM Electives		(18)
Select 18 credit hours from ITM, ITMD, ITMM, ITMO, ITMS, ITMT, and TECH		18
Mathematics Requirements		(9)
MATH 180	Fundamentals of Discrete Mathematics	3
or MATH 230	Introduction to Discrete Math	
MATH 192	Finite Mathematics	3
Select one course from the following:		3
BUS 221	Business Statistics	3
PSYC 203	Undergraduate Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences	4
MATH 225	Introductory Statistics	3
MATH 425	Statistical Methods	3
Natural Science and Engineering Requirements		(10)
EG 225 is recommended		
See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section D		10
Humanities and Social Sciences Requirements		(21)
PSYC 301 is recommended		
See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, sections B and C		21

Interprofessional Projects (IPRO)	(6)
See Illinois Tech Core Curriculum, section E	6
Minor, Technical, or Free Electives	(15)
Select 15 credit hours	15
Total Credit Hours	121

Bachelor of Information Technology and Management (Program for First-Year Students) Curriculum

Students should be aware that students not completing 30 credit hours of study in their first year will still be classified as a first-year student in the first semester of their second year of study, which may adversely impact some financial aid. Students with issues or questions about this should discuss it with a financial aid counselor.

		Year 1
Semester 1	Credit Hours Semester 2	Credit Hours
ITM 301	3 ITM 303	3
ITM 311	3 ITM 313	3
Natural Science or Engineering Elective	4 ITMO 356	3
Humanities 200-level Elective	3 MATH 180 or 230	3
	Natural Science or Engineering Elective	3
13		15

		Year 2
Semester 1	Credit Hours Semester 2	Credit Hours
ITMD 321	3 ITMD 362	3
ITMD 361	3 ITMD 411	3
ITMT 330	3 ITMO 340	3
MATH 192	3 Statistics Elective (MATH 425, BUS 221, PSYC 203)	3
Natural Science or Engineering Elective	3 Social Science Elective	3
	Minor, Technical, or Free Elective	3
15		18

		Year 3
Semester 1	Credit Hours Semester 2	Credit Hours
ITMM 471	3 ITM Elective	3
ITMS 448	3 ITM Elective	3
ITM Elective	3 Social Sciences Elective (300+)	3
Humanities Elective (300+)	3 Minor, Technical, or Free Elective	3
Minor, Technical, or Free Elective	3 Minor, Technical, or Free Elective	3
15		15

		Year 4
Semester 1	Credit Hours Semester 2	Credit Hours
ITM Elective	3 ITMT 430	3
ITM Elective	3 ITM Elective	3
IPRO Elective I	3 IPRO Elective II	3
Humanities Elective (300+)	3 Social Sciences Elective (300+)	3
Minor, Technical, or Free Elective	3 Humanities or Social Sciences Elective	3
15		15

Total Credit Hours: 121