

Applicants must have an Honours degree in Information Systems & Technology or in a cognate discipline with a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application. A module in Research Methodology at a postgraduate level is required. Generally, 'Recognised Prior Learning' eligibility is unacceptable. However, under exceptional circumstances, and upon the recommendation of the School Board, the University Senate may consider candidates who do not meet the general academic requirements provided that said students satisfy the Senate that they have, through prior learning, attained a level of competence adequate for the pursuit of the MCom degree.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD (IS & T))

The PhD in IS & T is a full research doctoral programme. The programme provides an ethically defensible bridge for professionals who are moving beyond their primary discipline into organisational leadership positions and who are required to work in the dynamic complex environment of contemporary Africa and its transition agenda. Doctoral students are required to demonstrate a comprehensive and high level of thinking, enquiry and insight by exploring untapped scientific territories in pursuit of universal knowledge within a changing GLOBAL environment through critical engagement with communities. Students must not just engage in meaningful and sound academic discourse in various contexts of IS & T, but also write scientific papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Working at the most advanced academic levels, the outcome culminates in the production of a thesis which creates new knowledge.

Programme structure

While there is no coursework required of students, students must attend regular sessions with her or his supervisor, follow instructions from supervisors, and submit progress reports twice a year. Students are further expected to attend research and writing workshops convened by the discipline, the School of Management, IT and Governance or the College of Law and Management Studies, present papers at conferences and publish at least one article in an approved peer-review journal. Registrants may undertake full-time or part-time study. The requisite 392 credits are earned solely through thesis research and production.

Eligibility

As a research-based degree, a master's degree in IS & T or a cognate discipline with a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical application is a requirement. A module in Research Methodology at a postgraduate level is required.

Programme teaching and supervision method

Students enter into a contract with his or her supervisor to govern and facilitate the research experience.

Programme supervisors

Dissertation and thesis supervisors are drawn from the discipline or other duly qualified academics upon review and approval by the Dean and Head of School and/or the Research & Higher Degrees Committee.

Closing dates for applications

There is no closing date for students wishing to undertake full research master or doctoral studies. Potential students may apply at any time during the year subject to availability of supervisors and academic place.

CONTACT US

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Note:

- The programmes and modules offered are subject to student enrolments.
- The School also offers a Master's degree in Information Systems and Technology by dissertation.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



The Discipline of Information Systems and Technology in the School of Management, Information Technology and Governance offers a Bachelor of Commerce (Honours), a Master of Commerce programme and a PhD in Information Systems and Technology at the Westville and Pietermaritzburg campuses.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY HONOURS (HEQsF8)

The programme aims to develop students academically and professionally so that they can make a positive contribution to the South African economy and the continent's prosperity. It further develops the applied competence of the learner in analyzing, interpreting and applying information technology (IT) management principles and methods. Additionally, the programme prepares equips the student to become a practitioner-research orientated person in their on-going professional development. The programme will also serve as an entrance requirement to the Master's degree in Information Technology or Information Systems.

Programme structure

Students are required to complete one compulsory module, five electives and a research paper. The duration of the programme for full-time students is one year (two semesters).

Programme teaching methods

Lectures, seminars and presentations will be held in the School. Virtual/electronic teaching and learning materials are used extensively. Lectures will be presented during the day. Attendance is compulsory.

Programme modules

The following modules will be presented in the programme:

Core modules

- Research Methodology
- Information Systems and Technology Research Paper Electives

Five electives from the list

- Software Engineering – Management Perspective
- Mobile & Personal Information Systems
- Big Data Management and Analytics
- Decision Support Technology
- Managing Information Systems
- Information Systems Planning
- Security for Information Systems
- Computer Mediated Communication
- Special Topics in IS&T

Programme teachers

The programme will be taught by lecturers in the discipline and invited practitioners.

Eligibility

Applicants should be in possession of a Bachelor's degree with relevant majors and a basic entrance requirement of 60% subject to staff capacity with preference being given to higher scoring applicants. Recognition of prior learning will be considered.

Closing Dates for Applications

- 31 October for the first semester of the ensuing year.
- 30 April for the second semester of the current year subject to availability of academic place.

MASTER OF COMMERCE IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY (COURSEWORK) (HEQsF 9)

The School of Management, Information Technology and Governance offers a Master of Commerce programme in Information Systems Technology on the Westville and Pietermaritzburg campuses.

Programme outcomes

The programme aims to provide students with the necessary mix of technical, organisational and management knowledge and skills to qualify them beyond their primary discipline of IS or IT by introducing them into organisational management and leadership positions that will enable them to work in the dynamic and complex environment of contemporary Africa and its transition agenda. The students will, thus, have a platform to become effective analyst programmers, business analysts, IS/IT or management consultants, IS/IT specialists, IS/IT entrepreneurs, and IS/IT managers, and the programme will equip them well for further management responsibilities. The programme further equips the student to become a practitioner-research orientated person in their on-going professional development. The programme will also serve as an entrance requirement to the PhD in Information Technology or Information Systems.

Programme structure

Students are required to complete a set of six modules from the prescribed list of modules, and to complete a dissertation. Although all modules are presented after hours, it is possible to register as a full-time or a part-time student. Full-time students may register for three modules each semester and may complete their degrees in one year, while part-time students will be allowed to register for two modules each semester and may complete their degrees in two years.

Programme teaching method

Seminars are held in the School on Mondays to Thursdays, from 17:15 to 20:15. Attendance at seminars is compulsory.

Programme modules

The following modules will be presented in the programme:

- Advanced Research Methodology
- Management of Knowledge
- Management of IT Staff
- Management of Information Systems Development
- Management of Current Trends in IT
- Management of Human Issues in IT
- Research Dissertation

Eligibility

Applicants must be in possession of a BCom Honours degree in Information Systems and Technology or equivalent with the basic entrance requirement being a minimum overall average of 60%.

MASTER OF COMMERCE (IS & T) BY RESEARCH (HEQsF 9)

The Master of Commerce in IS & T (MCOM (IS & T)) degree programme allows for the development of individual research. Starting with a sound background of coursework from previous degree programmes, students will have the opportunity to contribute to existing fields in IS or IT

or to begin to develop new areas of research. While meeting the dire need for applied research in organizations, students learn how to include citizens as co-creators of research findings. Dissertations, which meet certain criteria, may lay the foundation for accessing doctoral study, if desired.

Programme structure

While there is no coursework required of students, students must attend regular sessions with her or his supervisor, follow instructions from supervisors, and submit progress reports twice a year. Students are further expected to attend research and writing workshops convened by the discipline, the School of Management, IT and Governance or the College of Law and Management Studies and to participate in academic and practitioner driven conferences. Candidates may undertake full-time or part-time study.