

Informatics Program

<http://ccps.mercer.edu/undergraduate/informatics>

Department of Mathematics, Science, and Informatics

College of Continuing and Professional Studies

Mercer University

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What degree will I be able to obtain after completing the program?

Bachelor of Science in Informatics

2. What are the potential jobs available for an informatics graduate?

- Application developer
- Business analyst
- Clinic health informatics specialist
- Database administrator
- Data Mining Specialist
- EMR (electric medical record) analyst
- Healthcare data analyst
- Human-computer Interaction designer
- Information system officer
- Network administrator
- Quality assurance specialist
- Multimedia designer
- Software engineer
- System analyst
- User interface designer

The U.S. Bureau of Labor forecasts that two of the top ten job growth areas will be in healthcare, and that three of the top ten jobs will be in information technology. The U.S. Department of Labor also includes medical records and health information technicians in its Industry Snapshot for the Health Care High Growth Industry Profile, identifying it as an occupation that is expected to grow faster than average.

3. I hear about Computer Science, Information Systems, and now Informatics. What's the main difference(s) between all three fields of study?

Information around us grows exponentially, but in a manner which is loaded with interrelated and interdisciplinary features. At Mercer University, we believe in offering our students with the latest tools for success in the job market.

Computer Science is the study of the theoretical foundations of computation.

Information Systems is a scientific field of study that addresses the range of strategic, managerial and operational activities involved in the gathering, processing, storing, distributing and use of information, and its associated technologies.

Informatics is information systems contextualized and takes into account specific disciplines such as health and human-computer interaction. Broadly defined, Informatics is the study of how information is effectively processed within the context of various academic disciplines and practical vocations.

4. What is the format of course offerings and what are the degree requirements?

The program format is primarily face-to-face with 30% of the core and track courses available online or through a hybrid format. Students interested in becoming hospital employees, medical office employees, public and private health agency workers, web application developers, information technology project managers and designers, data analysts, and database developers, will benefit greatly from our Informatics program and its distinct features. A degree with multiple tracks provides students with an added flexibility.

In addition to general education and elective course work, the Bachelor of Science in Informatics requires 33 semester hours in Informatics core courses, plus 15 semester hours from one of three tracks. A total of 120 semester hours are required for degree completion.

5. What are the skills that I will gain through the Informatics major at Mercer University?

- Programming / Scripting
- Database
- Networking

- Software engineering
- Web application development
- Technology and organization
- Information management

6. What are the three tracks in the Informatics degree program?

The three tracks are Health Information Technology (HIT), Web Development and Human Computer Interaction (HCI), and General Informatics. A Student needs only one track to complete the major. However, more than one track may be taken, but this option will significantly reduce the number of elective courses.

Students in the Health Information Technology will be able to:

- Make decisions relevant to the health professions
- Employ techniques useful in the management of medical data
- Communicate effectively so as to implement technical knowledge

Students in the Web Development and Human-Computer Interaction track will be able to:

- Employ user-centered system interface design principles
- Develop platform independent informatics applications
- Analyze human-computer interactions to create optimally usable software designs

Students in the General Informatics track will be able to:

- Employ informatics operations using computer technology
- Apply basic informatics principles in a variety of disciplines
- Demonstrate interdisciplinary perspective embracing different aspects of the university curriculum

7. Where will the program be offered at Mercer University?

The Informatics program will begin in fall 2011 at the Atlanta Campus [3001 Mercer University Drive, Atlanta, GA 30341-4115] and at the Henry County Regional Academic Center [160 Henry Parkway, McDonough, GA 30253]. The program will be introduced to the Macon campus [1400 Coleman Avenue, Macon, GA 31207-0001] in fall 2012.

8. Do I have to attend classes during the day?

Mercer University's Regional Academic Centers are designed to meet the needs of a wide range of students including working adults. Classes meet in the evening, Saturdays,

and once a week for eight weeks. There are two eight-week sessions per semester, as well as a one eight-week and a one four-week summer sessions.

9. Will any of my classes be offered online?

The program format is primarily face-to-face with approximately 30% of the core and track courses available online or through a hybrid format. With nearly 30% of the courses being taught online or in a hybrid format, the program will benefit from a wide range of expertise of faculty members in the department for the effective delivery of online courses. One of our goals is to serve nontraditional students who would not normally attend full-time, face-to-face classes.

10. What is a capstone course/project?

Students will demonstrate certain learning outcomes within each track by successfully completing a capstone project as part of a student team. The project will occur during the last term of study. Faculty members and a panel of external reviewers from business and industry will evaluate the student teams' presentations according to a set of predefined criteria.

11. How can I find more about the informatics program at Mercer University?

For additional information about the Informatics Program, please visit:

<http://ccps.mercer.edu/undergraduate/informatics>

Or contact Dr. Feng Liu, Program Coordinator at Liu_F@Mercer.edu, (678)547-6046.

For information about Mercer's adult programs, please visit

www.mercer.edu/adultprograms

For information about our upcoming information sessions at the Atlanta campus or the Henry County Regional Academic Center, please visit:

<http://ccps.mercer.edu/prospective/contacts>

For information about tuition, please visit:

<http://bursar.mercer.edu/rac/rac-tuition>

For any questions concerning financial aid, please visit:

<http://ccps.mercer.edu/prospective/faq>