

PROGRAM CRITERIA FOR
INFORMATION SYSTEMS
AND SIMILARLY NAMED COMPUTING PROGRAMS
Lead Society: CSAB

[The notes in italics are commentary and not part of the proposed draft]

[Underlined elements are additions]

These program criteria apply to computing programs using information systems or similar terms in their titles.

3. Student Outcomes

The program must enable students to attain, by the time of graduation:

(j) An ~~understanding of processes that~~ ability to support and participate in the delivery, configuration, and management of information systems within a ~~specific application~~ Information Systems environment. [IS]

Notes:

- The proposed criteria require that the students will achieve a more advanced level of learning than just understanding with regard to the IS outcomes. The proposed criteria require the graduates to have an ability to participate in critical phases of (and not just support) the required IS activities.*
- The proposed criteria require that, in addition to delivery and management, it is important that the IS outcomes include a component related to configuration of information systems within the Information Systems environment relevant for the program. This is important in an environment where many technical solutions fail because they are not properly integrated with organizations' business processes and global considerations.*
- The proposed criteria recognize explicitly that "environment" here refers to the same "Information Systems" environment described in 5.b*

5. Curriculum

Students must have course work or an equivalent educational experience that includes:

a. Information Systems: One year that must include:

1. coverage of the fundamentals of a modern programming language, data management, networking and data communications, security of information systems, systems analysis and design and the role of Information Systems in organizations. [IS]

Notes:

- The proposed criteria add "security of information systems" as a specific coverage area that is universally recognized as important but missing from the current criteria.*

2. advanced course work that builds on the fundamental course work to provide depth.

[IS]

b. Information Systems Environment: One-half year of course work that must include ~~varied~~ a cohesive set of topics that provide background in an understanding of an environment in which the information systems will be applied professionally. [IS]

Notes:

- *The proposed criteria emphasize the importance of the internal cohesion of Information Systems environment coverage.*
- *The proposed criteria move from an earlier “background in” to a more learning outcome focused “an understanding of” with regard to the specification of learning that needs to take place related to the IS environment.*

c. Quantitative analysis or methods, including statistics. [IS]

6. Faculty

Some full-time faculty, including those responsible for the IS curriculum development, must hold a terminal degree with a program of study in information systems.

Notes:

- *The intent of the proposed change is to make acceptable terminal degrees that might be called something else but still have a clearly defined, substantial program of study/concentration/area of emphasis in the field of Information Systems (e.g. a doctorate in Management with a concentration in Information Systems or a doctorate in Public Policy with an emphasis area in Information Systems).*