Computer Information Systems

The computer information systems program is designed for students who wish to develop a technical background in computer science and intend to apply it in a business environment. Majors in the program complete a strong core of computer science courses, as well as selected courses in the School of Business Administration, and may choose electives from either, receiving a bachelor of science degree upon graduation. Graduates typically either go on to enroll in an M.B.A. program or graduate studies program in information technology, start their own technology-based businesses or aim for technology careers that move them into management positions. Computer information systems majors often choose to add a minor in business administration to their degree program.

By choosing to major in computer information systems, students can develop expertise in systems analysis, software development and software engineering, web application development, networking, database development or computer security. The department provides an emphasis on both theory and application of new computer technologies and encourage hands-on experience both in and out of the classroom. Computer information systems majors are encouraged to pursue internships and may receive course credit for the successful completion of an internship.

A Distinctive Program

While the fundamentals of computer science are important in our curriculum, the practical implementation of core concepts is vital to our students' attaining a firm understanding of the practice and application of computer science. Courses are constructed to be strongly project-oriented. In particular, students have the opportunity to work on a large team-based software project at the beginning of their junior year in a course designed to model what they would encounter in a professional environment. The program offers a computer security course which allows students to do hands-on penetration testing and develop a professional security audit as part of a team. Senior year, students work one-on-one with a faculty mentor to design and develop an innovative software project. Recent projects have included the development of a mobile marketing system for smart phones, development of tablet-based software to be used as a playbook for coaching football, software for real-time avatar tracking and display using the Microsoft Kinect and a web and database application for genealogical research.

Academics and Research

Independent research

All students in the department are required to complete a year-long research sequence for the senior project. This research is tailored to the interests and strengths of the individual student. Faculty advisors work individually with
students during their senior research year, providing guidance and support as needed.

Facilities and opportunities
The department has several teaching labs with a mixture of Microsoft Windows, Linux and Apple OS X systems, as well as rack-mounted servers for use in student research and both Android and iOS-based smart phones and tablets. Students also have 24/7 access to two well-equipped labs in Elizabeth Hall rooms 208 and 210.

Preparation for graduate study
Our students have developed a number of exciting projects, giving them a competitive edge when they apply to graduate schools or look for jobs. Past student work is available for review at the department's student research page.

Awards and Recognition

Distinguished faculty
Our faculty has obtained a Stetson Hand award for Research and Society for Modeling and Simulation International and an Outstanding Service award for outstanding and dedicated technical contributions and services to the modeling and computer simulation discipline.

Grant-funded research
Our students have been successful in obtaining Research Experience for Undergraduates grants at prestigious universities like the University of California and University of Texas. They have also been successful at obtaining Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience grants.

Undergraduate awards and honors
Students can receive multiple awards including; Ashcraft Award for outstanding junior, Wunnenberg award for outstanding students in graphics, Medlin award for outstanding senior research, Kresge money for senior research, Dean's fund for student travel, Sullivan award and Etter McTeer award.

Beyond the Classroom

Internships
Students may take an internship course for credit, either during the regular semester or during the summer. Students have also participated in special industry software development projects in recent years. Our students have interned at AMD, IBM, AT&T, Convergys, Florida Hospital, Seagate and StrombergCarlson.

After Stetson

Diverse careers
Our graduates have studied at Clemson University, Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Florida, Washington University at St. Louis and others. Alumni work at companies such as Google, Oracle, AMD, Harris Corp., IBM, Lockheed-Martin, AT&T, RIM, U.S. Navy Intelligence, Solodev and Mobilozophy. Job titles include systems analyst, software developer, software engineer, computer and network security analyst, web developer, computer game developer, project manager, chief technical officer and chief executive officer.