MS IN

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Northwestern | McCORMICK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Bridging the gap between technology and business strategies

Northwestern University's Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) program was founded on the belief that IT is at the core of every business, and that successful organizations must have IT leaders who possess a strong understanding of both technology and management principles.

Designed for seasoned IT professionals with workplace experience, our part- and full-time programs offer a unique blend of technology and business courses, a diverse student body, and coursework taught by both academic professors and leading executives. Our graduates leave prepared for the constant, fast-paced challenges of senior IT leadership roles, and are poised to drive organizational changes that bridge the gap between fundamental technologies and business strategies.

- **COURSEWORK** offers an intensive and unique curriculum across both technical courses covering a wide range of IT domains as well as business and management principles.

Technical courses (70 percent) focus on fundamental engineering principles and newer, emerging technologies. Business courses (30 percent) in finance, marketing, and management provide a framework for students to understand how to translate their technology ideas into practical business solutions. Students can customize the program to their desired area of specialization, and class assignments often have direct and immediate applicability to the students' work-life.

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** is a priority with MSIT, and ample networking opportunities are provided throughout the year, including guest lectures, quarterly industry speakers, and social and professional events. MSIT students are encouraged to use both the McCormick School of Engineering and Northwestern University career offices to hone skills in interviewing, résumé building, and elevator pitches.

ADITYA SINHA
MSIT '20

" As an IT professional, I have a much better sense of the latest trends and technologies in the tech world. The program allowed me to understand that as an IT leader, it is not just about building the best software, but it is about keeping the bigger picture in mind and making the right business decisions."

STUDENT BODY PROFILE

MSIT students come from a variety of educational and professional backgrounds. Classroom discussions and study groups are enhanced by the wide range of industries, jobs, and undergraduate majors represented by the diverse students in the program.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

THE PART-TIME PROGRAM is completed in two academic years during the fall, winter, and spring quarters. Classes are held on Saturdays only.

THE FULL-TIME PROGRAM offers two options:
- completion in one academic year during the fall, winter and spring quarters; or
- completion in one full academic year plus the following fall quarter. This allows for an optional summer internship.

Classes for full-time students are held on weekdays and alongside the part-time students on Saturdays.

MSIT courses require both individual and team-based assignments, involve collaborative work in MSIT study groups, include options for independent study courses, and conclude with a capstone course where students apply their new-found technology and business skills to a case study presented by a practicing IT professional.

FACULTY

MSIT faculty is drawn from Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; and Pritzker School of Law, alongside leading industry experts whose present-day experiences and case studies round out the academic experience.

CYBERSECURITY MINOR

Cybersecurity is one of the fastest growing fields in the country. To prepare students for these roles, MSIT offers a minor in cybersecurity leadership. Students earn the minor by completing five courses that provide a holistic view of topics appropriate for leadership roles in the area.

COHORT EXPERIENCE

Together the part- and full-time students form the MSIT cohort of approximately 25 to 30 students, and start the program together in September. While the program flexibility allows some courses to be taken outside the cohort, students engage in a majority of the courses together. Integration between the part- and full-time students during class allow students to capitalize on the learning gained from varying academic and professional experiences among their peers.

STUDY GROUPS

Study groups – which typically meet once a week to discuss class material and homework, prepare for tests, and work on group projects – are an invaluable part of the MSIT experience. Study groups provide opportunities for students to harness multiple points of view for handling work-related IT problems and develop skills for managing group dynamics. Alumni often describe the study groups as one of the greatest unanticipated long-term benefits to the program experience.

TIMELINE

● **APPLICATION OPENS**
September 1

● **INFO SESSIONS**
October–April

● **APPLICATION DEADLINE**
June 15 (full-time)
August 1 (part-time)

● **RECEIVE DECISION**
March–August

● **PROGRAM BEGINS**
September

START YOUR APPLICATION >

ADMISSIONS

🖥 **view admissions requirements >**

The MSIT admission committee takes a balanced look at each applicant, relying on a comprehensive set of documents and a personal interview (for those short-listed) to determine the best candidates for the program. Applicants are evaluated not only for academic ability, but for career goals and an overall "fit" within this unique professional program.

Specific requirements, including an applicant's previously earned technical vs. non-technical degree(s), major, test scores, and IT-related experience level and type, vary between the full- and part-time programs. GRE and GMAT test scores are optional.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until all seats are filled. The cohort fills quickly; application submission is recommended by June 15 to receive the fullest consideration.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

☐ **ONLINE APPLICATION FORM**

☐ **TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**

☐ **PERSONAL STATEMENT**

☐ **UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS**

☐ **GRE OR GMAT** (optional)

☐ **TOEFL OR IELTS** (if appropriate)

☐ **RÉSUMÉ OR CV**

☐ **APPLICATION FEE** (waivers available)

PLEASE DO NOT SEND HARD COPIES OF MATERIALS.

NEXT STEPS

LEARN MORE
msit.northwestern.edu

QUESTIONS
msit@northwestern.edu

FINANCIAL AID

🖥 **view part-time financial information >**
🖥 **view full-time financial information >**

Many master's students find funding through a variety of loan options or through other scholarship and resource opportunities, some of which are listed on **McCormick's website**.

Additionally, students are encouraged to visit the **Evanston Office of Graduate Financial Aid** for information on a variety of federal and private loan and funding options.

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