MIS undergraduate program review

Key questions for task force:

* What knowledge and skills do our students need when they graduate?
* What things should we consider foundational versus optional?
* Does our current curriculum meet those needs?
* Does the proposed IS curriculum (or parts therein) better meet those needs?
* How can we modify existing courses to cover these gaps?

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| IS 2010 curriculum suggestions | ECU MIS curriculum |
| IS 2010.1 Foundations of Information Systems | MIS 3063 Introduction to MIS |
| IS 2010.2 Data and Information Management | MIS 4113 Database Management Systems |
| IS 2010.3 Enterprise Architecture |  |
| IS 2010.4 IS Project Management | MIS 4963 Special topics – Project Management |
| IS 2010.5 IT Infrastructure | MIS 4123 Telecommunications and networked systems |
| IS 2010.6 Systems Analysis and Design | MIS 4163 Information Systems Analysis and Design |
| IS 2010.7 IS Strategy, Management and Acquisition |  |
| Electives |  |
| Application development | MIS 3673 Software Design and Development |
| Business process management |  |
| Collaborative computing |  |
| Data mining/business intelligence |  |
| Enterprise systems |  |
| HCI |  |
| Information search and retrieval |  |
| IT audit and controls |  |
| IT security and risk management |  |
| Knowledge management |  |
| Social informatics |  |
| IT innovation and new technologies |  |

Other MIS ECU courses that do not directly correlate with proposed classes:

* MIS 4153 Web application development for business
* MIS 4173 Information Systems Development and Implementation

Secondary question:

Should the MIS certificate be updated?

In the document, they acknowledge that a strong argument for application development as a core course can be made. Sounds as if it was contentious even among the committee that developed this curriculum. Two key questions, is knowledge of application development principles and practices necessary for future MIS grads and for more advanced material in our program? In both cases, I would say yes. Many of our grads do at least some programming after graduation. And analysis and design is much easier to appreciate with programming background. For these reasons I’m in favor of keeping 3673 as is.

However, one of the suggested core classes cannot be implemented if we keep 3673. Of the three IS curriculum courses, 2010.7, IS strategy, management, and acquisition includes high level managerial content. Most of this content is not applicable to graduating MIS students, but would be better situated in an MBA course. In fact, our 6713 course covers these topics. I recommend we not implement 2010.7 unless as an elective.

That leaves 4153 and 4173, and Dr. Reed’s elective on project management. Neither 4153 nor 4173 perfectly matches IS project management or Enterprise Architecture. Dr. Reed’s elective on project management fits the suggested course closely. 4153 comes close to matching an elective IS innovation and new technologies. 4173 includes a few elements of Enterprise architecture, but is more practically oriented (one of the strengths of our program). 4153 also includes a few elements of Enterprise architecture, but in an online context.

The integrative nature of Enterprise architecture makes it a good idea for a capstone course, but to keep one of our core strengths, I recommend we make it less abstract and more technology oriented. This can entail analyzing existing enterprises to understand their architectures. If we wish to keep some of the 4153 flavor, we can design the course to be centered on online architecture, which could include mobile technologies, data/information architecture, content management, infrastructure, user experience, and cloud computing. This would introduce the key concepts of enterprise architecture but also narrow the focus on one set of technologies that can consumed easier.