

## **BSIS Program Review**

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LIS 4934 Information Studies Senior Capstone

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I am an Information Science major with a concentration in Web Development Technologies. I chose this major because I am heavily interested in technology and the internet in particular. I grew up using computers so I decided that I would like to contribute to the very space that provided me with amazing experiences. During my time at the University of South Florida I have taken several courses for my major and my concentration. I will be going over some of the courses and assignments that I feel will be important for my success in the field of web development.

### **Courses**

#### **World Wide Web Page Design and Management (LIS 3361)**

This course was my first experience with web development. I was introduced to Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) which are for frontend web development. I learned to distinguish between structure and style through these languages. I also learned how to use a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) program to connect to a server and manage files. The importance of this course to me is that it started the foundation for learning about and using frontend web development technologies.

#### **Information Architecture (LIS 3783)**

This course was about creating information environments through the use of organization, labeling, navigation, and search systems. Furthermore, I also learned the various components that are involved with research, strategies, design, and documentation. Components such as wireframes, sitemaps, and controlled vocabulary. A group project took part over a majority of the course, and this helped me with

communication and teamwork. This course is important to my career aspirations since I will be working with others to ensure that the websites we build are considerate and enhance the users ability to find the information they need.

### **Web Design Technologies (LIS 4365)**

This course expanded on what I learned in World Wide Web Page Design and Management. I was introduced to JavaScript and PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor (PHP). These languages are more focused on backend web development. JavaScript adds more interactive features to webpages such as animated menus or sliders. PHP helps the website interact with databases and process forms. There was also a brief refresher on Structured Query Language (SQL) since the course dealt with database integration. The importance of this course to my future career is that it added onto my foundation and gave me experience with backend web technologies.

### **Assignments**

#### **Final Project (LIS 3361)**

The final project was the culmination of several assignments. Each part built upon the previous one. The end result was a personal resume website. It was made completely from scratch in HTML and CSS. I had to consider the structure of several webpages and keep the style consistent across the entire website. This is also where I had to use an FTP program to upload the files to the host server and consider file structure so that all elements and content would appear on the live website. This assignment is important to my aspirations since it gave me experience in building a website from scratch using frontend technologies.

**Low and High-Fidelity Wireframes (LIS 3783)**

This was part of the greater group project and information architecture design process. The wireframes are webpage templates, and they give us a chance to see how the various systems may interact before an actual website would be built. The low-fidelity wireframes were extremely simple and are intended to be produced quickly for ideas and concepts. The high-fidelity wireframes are much more detailed and are closer to what the finished product may look like. The importance of this assignment to me is that I was able to practice designing information environments and consider the various systems that encourage usability.

**Final Project (LIS 4365)**

With this final project I was given more creative freedom since it was not the result of a previous assignments building on each other, but instead I would build a website of my choice that incorporates the technologies learned. I chose to build an online store for a museum. This website would make use of HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP. I applied what I learned from the previous course for the frontend. I would use JavaScript and PHP to create and handle the customer's order forms. The importance of this assignment to my aspirations is I would have to combine frontend and backend web development technologies to create a website.

**Conclusion**

The information science program at the University of South Florida provided me with the opportunity to learn and gain experience with the various web development technologies. I have built a foundation where I understand components of frontend and backend development and how they are used together to build websites. I am also

aware and considerate of the information architecture of the websites I build. I must ensure that the information environments I design can be easily used. The program has helped create a foundation in which I can build on and become more advanced. As web development technologies evolve, I am positive that I will be able to progress with it.