**BSIS Program Review Part I**

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LIS 4934: BSIS Senior Capstone

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**Introduction:**

My hobbies and interests in technology and design guided my concentration in web design for the Information Science major. Throughout my adolescence to young adulthood, I found great achievement in learning to code and create projects, as well as a passion for aesthetics and design in many forms. Web design is a professional outlet to explore, share, and help others with my interests. While facing challenges in certain courses in the major, I felt lost and failed and began to question them. Why do I need to understand information systems, or why do I need to learn to write a memo? However, I have grown alongside my skills. I have established and newfound appreciation for the courses I have taken throughout the years. I found relevance in the great range of subjects and skills I have found. The culmination of my education helped me become well-rounded and equipped with the diverse skill sets and habits needed as an aspiring web developer.

**Information Science**

* **LIS 4414: Information Policy and Ethics**
* **LIS 4934: BSIS Senior Capstone**
* **LIS 3261: Intro to Information Science**
* **LIS 3353: IT concepts/ info professionals**
* **LIS 4202: Information behaviors**
* **LIS 4482: Networks and Communication**

The major provided a comprehensive foundation that transcended the skills I expected to derive from the program through these courses. I became acquainted with the history of technology, from networks to hardware, and the myriad careers and pathways I can work with. It transcended past the purely technical aspects I was excited to hone. The foundation's course made me recognize the developments that have contributed to my field, the efforts invested, and the paradigms that have been challenged throughout the decades of its practice. The research I did throughout the courses brought awareness of the importance of studying effectively, being critical of the information and content I consume, and connecting to it. The research enabled me to understand the foundation of the field and to value exploring and finding better methods for evaluating studies/techniques essential to my future responsibility in creating effective user-centered designs. These courses aided me, guiding me to contribute to my practice and responsibility as an active learner in our innovating technological world, and to my professional capacity. The ethics course emphasized its pertinence in the critical responsibility of active learning and collaboration. The logical frameworks it provided to efficiently evaluate past and emerging technologies instilled a skill I need to ensure support and craft technologies for reliable and trustworthy contributions. The culmination of interconnected historical, ethical, and critical courses has made me confident in ensuring my user-centered designs have comprehensive considerations as I evaluate the social contexts, needs, and goals of diverse users in my web page designs.

**Web Development and Programming Courses**

* **LIS 3361 WWW Page Design/management**
* **LIS 3352 Interaction design**
* **LIS 3781 Information Architecture**
* **CIS 3360 Prin of information security**
* **COP 2030 Programming Concepts**
* **COP 2250 Obj. Oriented Program**
* **LIS 2780 Database concepts**

Throughout the major, I developed a range of hard skills relevant to an aspiring web developer and more. My programming courses guided me in cultivating efficient coding skills and logical frameworks essential for a solid foundation in web development. I developed and honed technical skills for front-end web design including coding a web page such as HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, along with web hosting and management. I learned pertinent skills in back-end web development as well, including Python, and Java, as well as SQL and database design. Besides web hosting and management, the networking courses aid my goal to enhance and protect a user's effective experience. It provided duality to identify potential concerns and provide solutions such as network security concerns, and data transfer issues that could be better optimized. My courses in information architecture and information needs underscore and put into practice the merit of user-centered design to create an effective web page, and gave insight into a career pathway I have become interested in, user experience (UX) design. Projects from these courses challenged my skills and encouraged the exploration of solutions outside the curriculum.

**Communication and Project Management**

* **LIS 4930: Project Management**
* **LIS 4029: Professional & Technical Communication for Analysts**
* **ENC 3249 Communication for IT Professionals**

The major provided a comprehensive foundation that spans beyond the purely technical aspects. The major nurtured soft skills by encouraging conscientious collaboration and communication with clients, users, and peers. These courses emphasized conscientious and comprehensive communication with peers and users with the format and language we select with subjects from our technology-based fields. Communication for IT Professionals was a required course that set a great precedent and guidance to prosper in the other challenging communication electives I selected. It explored different formats and styles from memos to project proposals that facilitate the progression of projects from start to end. Project management further enhanced a culmination of soft skills in ethics and communication with peers, stakeholders, and end-users to ensure an effective product is conceived for all parties involved. As a web developer aiming for user-centered design, these communication skills are essential and interconnected with my responsibilities. As I develop information architecture for a website and consider users' need for effective user-centered design, I need to mutually communicate and comprehend users’ needs and responses to my designs. As I work with stakeholders, I need to mutually communicate what is ideal and should be achieved. These skills allow me to be conscientious in creating websites to please both parties.

**Conclusion:**

I enjoyed the majority of my courses. Although programming to writing papers became difficult tasks, their rigorous challenges helped me and my skills. I was initially short-sighted and failed to see the bigger purpose and relevance of my communication courses, ethical courses, and even the foundations course. However, they provided a pertinent range of skills and inspired me to become a considerate and reliable web developer. I have one major critique of the program, and it was the limited availability of seats and semester-exclusive courses. As a consequence of this, I had a hard time being able to sign up for a course I was so excited about. I have gotten stressed and anxious due to these limitations. I never got to take a course that I felt was critical to take, and even a requirement for the concentration in Web Development Technologies is LIS 4365, Web Design Technologies. I was able to take the LIS 4930 Project Management course to fulfill my requirements instead. Although taking the project management course helped me venture into a new interesting career pathway, I wanted to benefit from all the content that was originally meant to fulfill my concentration. It made the major feel quite unfulfilling and drew back my ability to graduate sooner.