BSIS Program Review

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LIS 4934 Information Policy and Ethics

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November 30th, 2025

Introduction

Before I entered college here at the University of South Florida (USF), I had never heard of information studies. While looking at the programs I saw many other places had similar programs under the same name or different names such as library science or informatics. Fast forward to now, I am about to graduate with a degree in information science with a concentration in data science and analytics. Looking in retrospect at my time at USF, I realized how much I have learned and want to highlight some of the most important classes that helped me at my internships and I believe will be useful moving forward.

Courses

Here are a list of the upper division classes I have taken alongside one lower division class I thought was important to my career:

- **LIS 2780:** Database Concepts

- **EGN 3000L:** Foundations of Engineering Lab

- **ENC 3250:** Professional Writing

- **LIS 3261:** Intro to Information Science

- **LIS 3353:** IT Concepts/Info Professionals

- **IDS 4942:** Community Internship

- **LIS 4204:** Information Behaviors

- **LIS 4273:** Adv Stats & Analytics

- **LIS 4317:** Visual Analytics

- **LIS 4370:** R Programming

- **LIS 4414:** Information Policy & Ethics

- **LIS 4761:** Intro Data/Text Mining

- **LIS 4800:** Introduction to Data Science

- **LIS 4805**: Predictive Analytics

- **LIS 4934:** BSIS Senior Capstone

These courses were relevant to my career aspirations and showed me how vast the field of information technology was (IT). One thing I would like to highlight was how important it is to me to find the niche I want to work in, especially in a field like IT. Taking these different courses allowed me to explore what I could possibly be good at. Once I find what I enjoy and what I am good at doing, I want to continue forward with becoming good at that field of IT.

Of the lower division courses I took, I believe LIS 2780 Database Concepts was key to a lot of the success I had. Many of the interviews I had asked SQL questions and relational databases. Being able to work with relational databases in Microsoft Access helped shape a lot of my knowledge and programming skills. LIS 3353 IT concepts also helped a lot in this process as I knew about different skills needed for help desk, port numbers, and general networking skills.

During my time in information science, I got to mainly explore data science and analytics. I got to learn about the programming language R and explored different ways to use it. Classes like LIS 4761 Intro Data/Text Mining taught me how to extract information from the amount of words, while classes like LIS 4805 taught me machine learning in R. R is a powerful language and even learning R can help me in different languages such as Python.

Important Assignments

Some of the assignments I would like to highlight come from LIS 2780 Database Concepts, EGN 3000L Foundations of Engineering Lab, and LIS 4761 Intro Data/Text Mining.

Inside of LIS 2780, I got to create a mock country doctor database. I still list this project on my resume to highlight my relational database knowledge. I also use this project for the stories I use in interviews. If one were to ask about what a one to many relationship is, I would think of the time I made one for this database.

EGN 3000L taught me how to work in a group with different engineers. While I was not directly in a role related to my major, I got to experience working in an environment with people who have different skillsets than you. Being able to communicate and create a robot together was an experience that set me up for success. This project was fun, taught me soft skills, and helped with collaboration skills.

Lastly, I wanted to highlight a course from my concentration which is LIS 4761. Similar to the EGN 3000L project in regards to working in a group, but I got to use different text mining techniques to analyze user reviews for Netflix. This project was useful because it simulated how data scientists can use data to find meaningful patterns. These patterns can give businesses' insight on how to move forward.

Conclusion

My time at USF is coming to an end and has shaped my professional career. While I am still trying to answer the question of what I want to pick out of the different niches in IT, I

learned many skills. From technology focused in data to normal IT skills, the combination of

these classes fill me with confidence upon graduation.