Blaine Killen

**IST Short Answer**

I want to switch to the IST and Finance Dual major so I can further convert my passion for technology and business strategies into a profession. When I came into college, I was between choosing finance and information technologies to primarily focus my studies on, and I originally chose finance. I co-founded a company my freshman year at Syracuse called MeetingSprout, an online calendar based software, where my team received funding from the RvD competition and entry into the Sandbox. I was responsible for leading two senior developers to a finished project, and presenting our software to investors and potential customers. This confirmed my passion for both areas of study, and I shortly reconsidered my original major decision. Through the I-School’s and Whitman’s resources, I could satisfy both of my interests of study, and grow my skills in both areas to the professional level.

I want to be an employee coming out of college with extreme knowledge and skill in software development, while being able to communicate effectively to top management using business vocabulary. This is the true package for the next generation’s information technology leaders, one that has a technological, business, and design background with the ability to communicate effectively in these areas and provide project plans that do more with less resources, commonly known as lean implementation. I have displayed my interests in the I-Schools curriculum by participating in events such as the MLB competition, and by my class choices my first two years. If given the opportunity to study in the I-School, I would use the educational and extracurricular resources the I-School provides me with to the fullest to reach my professional goals.