

This is my journey through the Bachelor of Science in Information Science (BSIS) program at the University of South Florida. In this paper, I will dive into the upper-level (3000 and 4000) courses I have completed here at USF. I hope to convey the role of the BSIS curriculum had in equipping me with knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in Data Analyst and Data Science roles.

- LIS 4800 Introduction to Data Science

This course was one of the first classes that I ever took at USF. It was absolutely instrumental in my future career as a data analyst, as it introduced me to a new programming language, R. Additionally, I learned new concepts that are important for data analysts such as data mining, cleaning, and data visualization.

- LIS 4273 Adv Stats & Analytics

In Advanced Statistics and Analytics, a course I took last semester, I learned about advanced statistical topics such as logistic regression, maximum likelihood, bootstrapping, nonparametrics, and Bayesian methods. This class, surprisingly, was not as difficult as STA 2023: Introductory Statistics, a course I also took. While there were some complex topics discussed in this class, I was left yearning for more by the end.

- LIS 4317 Visual Analytics

Visual Analytics is a course I am currently taking this semester. I am creating visualizations with software like Tableau and Adobe Illustrator and using R packages like ggplot2 to code graphics from data. Overall, this class is giving me the tools to be successful as an analyst in the future and is a pleasure to take.

- LIS 4761 Intro Data/Text Mining

Introduction to Data and Text Mining provided an overview of the process of finding useful patterns in numerical and categorical data as well as finding patterns in text data. For the final project of this class, I performed sentiment analysis on Reddit comments from the first live thread concerning the Israel/Palestine conflict and the 39th thread of the conflict to see if there were any noticeable changes in sentiment. I utilized multiple packages in R and used resources like Kaggle to help me in that endeavor. This was an enjoyable class to take and felt like by the end that I had greatly improved my understanding of data and text mining.

- LIS 4370 R Programming

LIS 4370 R Programming is another class that I am taking in my second-to-last semester at USF. This course is teaching me about basic concepts in R, such as packages, R programming structures, and Object-oriented programming. Mostly everything taught (so far) has been covered in depth in other classes that I've taken.

- LIS 4805 Predictive Analytics

In Predictive Analytics, I am learning difficult modeling techniques. Throughout this course, I'm gaining a deep understanding of complex methodologies aimed at forecasting outcomes based on data patterns and trends. From regression analysis to machine learning algorithms, the curriculum is challenging in predictive analytics and will be a great resource in the future.

- LIS 3261 Intro to Information Science

Introduction to Information Science gave me a basic understanding of the origins, history, and development of the Information Science field. From the early roots of information organization to the modern digital age, I gained insights into how information is structured, managed, and utilized to serve diverse societal needs. Overall, this class was helpful.

- LIS 3353 IT Concepts/Info Professionals

LIS 3353 IT Concepts for Information Professionals gave an overview of the history, development, and current state of computer hardware and software from the first computers up to today. It was interesting to see how technology has developed, and to see where it may potentially go in the future.

- LIS 4414 Information Policy and Ethics

Through insightful discussions and critical analysis, LIS 4414 Information Policy and Ethics dived into the intricate web of governmental regulations, policies, and ethical considerations that shape information literacy, access, security today. From examining the implications of data privacy laws to understanding the ethical dilemmas in information dissemination, I was able to examine the landscape of information policy and ethics in today's day and age.

- LIS 4204 Information Behaviors

In the Information Behaviors course, I explored different ways individuals and groups interact with information across various contexts and environments. Through an examination of information behaviors, I gained insight into the complexities and concepts underlying how people seek, evaluate, and utilize information to fulfill their needs. While I felt like the class should've shown me on how an understanding of information behaviors is useful in IT or other information systems, it was almost entirely theoretical.

- ENC 3250 Professional Writing

In ENC 3250 Professional Writing, students like me are learning skills essential for effective communication in professional settings. Through rhetorical strategies tailored

for workplace contexts, or designing reports for certain agencies, I am learning how to craft persuasive and impactful written communication. The only problem I have with this class is the workload, which I feel like has been an interference in producing high-quality work.

- LIS 4934 BSIS Senior Capstone

Finally, LIS 4934 BSIS Senior Capstone – this current class. I've enjoyed writing this report and am looking forward to the upcoming assignment. I believe that the final project is a great way to conclude my time here at USF.

This marks the end of my examination of my BSIS coursework. This experience has been a positive one. Generally, the best classes here have been the ones where I've been pushed creatively and analytically. Many of the other classes (LIS 3261, 3353, 4414, 4204) have interesting concepts, but are slightly repetitive and have unmemorable differences between them. Nevertheless, I look forward to graduation and the future ahead.