My journey through the Information Science program at USF has provided me with a fundamental understanding of information science, technology, and analytics. Through a blend of theoretical coursework and practical experiences, I've gained so much knowledge of data management, statistical analysis, and information systems. In this paper, I will discuss my experience within the program and provide suggestions for future development of the BSIS curriculum.

In my experience in the Information Science program here at USF, I feel like I've gained a comprehensive understanding on how information science plays a crucial role in the world today. Additionally, hands-on projects and internships have allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, which have solidified my understanding of the field. Overall, the program has provided an education that has prepared me to navigate the field effectively.

I'm interested in pursuing a career in data science and analytics within the IS field. The IS program has adequately prepared me for this path by providing a solid foundation in data management, statistical analysis, and programming languages commonly used in data science such as Python and R. Additionally, the program's focus on understanding business processes and information systems has equipped me with skills to extract insights from data to drive informed decision-making.

One aspect of the program that I enjoyed was the online format of the Information Science program. While being in-person certainly has its benefits, there was never an instance where I felt like going to a classroom was necessary for this degree (with a minor exception for the classes in my concentration – Data Science and Analytics). Part of the reason for this was the reading and essay heavy course load. I'm currently taking an unnamed in-person English course now, where the majority of class time is dedicated to completing a writing assignment. It doesn't

make much sense (in my opinion) to take a significant amount of time to travel to and sit in a class where I'm doing the same the assignments at home.

One addition that I would like to see included in the program is a course on how information science is practical in the workforce today. It seems to me that the degree is geared towards transfer students who have various backgrounds in technology. Many of us would like to see how information science is practical for data science, programming, or IT. The IS program has given me a fundamental understanding of how information is disseminated, how one should use a library database, and core concepts of how individuals look for information. It also included topics relevant for today (AI, IoT, etc.). But how specifically are some of these concepts applied to real life? The best illustration of a class that teaches real-life applied concepts is Professional Writing (ENC 3250), where students (like me) are taught how to write various forms of correspondence, create visualizations from data, and feasibility reports. This class has absolutely prepared me for later on in life. Not to call out on any class in particular, but Information Behaviors (LIS 4204) was the polar opposite. While my professor was fantastic and the material was standard, I found myself asking the question "so what?" throughout the course. What is important about learning theoretical knowledge on how individuals seek, find, and access information? How is this useful for real life? Going through dozens of research articles on the topic of information behavior where the limitation section takes up a half a page didn't provide much reassurance.

In the future, I hope to pursue a master's in data science and analytics. After five years in undergraduate however, I will certainly take an indefinite break from my academic journey. Unfortunately, the passion of going to college and studying hard has almost completely dissipated, leaving me feeling completely burnt out. I have a job offer working in data analytics

following my graduation this Summer and will make any concrete decision after a year or two there.

       In conclusion, my time in the Information Science program has been enlightening and rewarding. The program's emphasis on practical application and theoretical knowledge has prepared me to tackle any challenges within information science and technology. As I prepare to embark on the next chapter of my career in data science and analytics, I am confident in my abilities and excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.