

INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEPARTMENT

INFORMATION SYSTEMS PHD TRACK APPLICATION

Instructions: The Information System Ph.D. Preparation program is designed primarily for students starting in their first-year of the MISM, because it is preferable to be enrolled in the program for both years of the MISM. However, highly qualified second-year students may be admitted, if space is available. All students desiring to enter the IS Ph.D. preparation program and to take its courses must formally apply using this form. No student is guaranteed admission to the program; however, students with minimum GMAT scores of 680 or better are generally admitted if they have strong motivation and commitment for Ph.D. studies. Students with lower GMAT scores must provide additional evidence of their academic potential.

Non-MISM students will no longer be considered for this program as they simply do not have the requisite background in IS that is provided by the IS core.

All decisions are made by Dr. Lowry based on program space, a candidate's record, and the candidate's potential for success in Ph.D. school. Any appeals of the admissions decision must be in writing to Dr. Lowry.

1. Personal Information:

Surname _____ First Name _____ Middle or Maiden name _____
_____-_____-_____ [] Female [] Male
BYU Student ID Number _____

2. Addresses:

- a. **Current mailing address** (All information pertaining to your PhD track program will be sent to your current mailing or email address. It is your responsibility to advise the PhD track coordinator of any change in address.)

_____(_____)_____-_____
Number and Street City Area Code Daytime Telephone
_____(_____)_____-_____
State Zip Code Country Area Code Evening Telephone

- b. Most used E-mail address _____

3. Academic Information:

What is your current MISM academic status?

- [] First-year student (integrated 5-year program), two years left in school
[] First-year student (from other university), two years left in school
[] First-year student (from other university), one year left (because of previous course work)
[] Second-year student, one year left in school *
[] Second-year student, one semester left in school *
[] Other (describe) _____

If you attended BYU as an undergraduate, overall BYU GPA: _____

If you did not attend BYU as an undergraduate, non-BYU GPA: _____

If applicable, other undergraduate school you attended: _____

List grades received for the following IS courses that you've taken or the equivalent from your previous school (also list any MISM courses you have taken, if applicable):

IS201 (intro) ___ IS202 (Java) ___ IS401 (SA&D) ___ IS402 (Database) ___ IS403 (Programming) ___

IS411 (Design) ___ IS412 (Data comm.) ___ IS413 (Enterprise dev) ___ IS490 (Consulting) ___

Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___

Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___

Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___

Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___

List all the statistics and mathematics courses you have taken and the grades you have received:

Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___

Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___ Other (_____)___

4. Dates and Scores of tests taken:

GMAT _____ TOEFL _____
(Circle one) Date taken Total Score AWA Verbal % Quant % Date taken Score Score

How many times have you take the GMAT? _____

5. Information Systems is a highly diverse field (researchers and Ph.D. programs can specialize in everything from software engineering, ERP, systems design, HCI, OR/OM, CS, management, strategy, ethics, ethnography, Psychology, e-commerce, Social Psychology, communication, economics, sociology, medical informatics / health, mathematics, databases, SA&D, OO technology, networking, and so on). Not necessarily from this list, what are the top three topics you think you would like to research—in rank order?

Topic 1 _____ Topic 2 _____ Topic 3 _____

What are the top three topics you think you would like to teach?

Topic 1 _____ Topic 2 _____ Topic 3 _____

6. What is your commitment and interest level in getting a Ph.D. in IS?

- This is my primary professional goal
- I am torn between industry work and getting my Ph.D.
- I am not sure
- Other, specify _____

7. When are you planning on attending a Ph.D. program?

- The Fall after graduation
- After a year of work
- After two to three years of work
- After several years of work
- Not sure

THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS THAT ARE REQUIRED (please answer with one paragraph per question at most):

8. Why do you want to get a PhD? What do you see yourself doing with a Ph.D.?

9. What is your level of interest in teaching versus research? What is your level of desire to become a research scientist who publishes in top journals?

10. Explain any unique qualities you possess that you believe will make you a successful Ph.D. student and Professor.
11. How sure and how committed you are towards getting a Ph.D. at this point?
12. The full Ph.D. prep track requires that you take IS571, IS572, Stats 511, Stats 512, and an IS693R research experience with a faculty member. How committed are you at this point to take all five courses? Are you just wanting to try IS571, or do you know that you will take all five? Do you have any concerns with any of these courses?
13. Have you done any theory-based scientific research in the past?
14. We encourage Ph.D. prep track students to work as RA's for faculty members at 10 hours a week at \$12 an hour so that you can get hands-on research experience. What is your commitment, availability, and ability to work as an RA starting this Fall? Are you okay with being assigned to a faculty member who you've never work with before, and to work on topics that you may not have direct interest in at this point?
15. How flexible are you in learning and researching topics that you have never been exposed to?
16. Both IS571 and IS572 require you learn very difficult concepts and to go through readings that are far more difficult than you have been exposed to in your college career. Do you have any concerns about doing large quantities of difficult reading?
17. Both IS571 and IS572 require you to write a substantial amount of difficult assignments and to help teach difficult concepts to other students. Do you have any concerns with this?
18. As Ph.D.-level seminars, both IS571 and IS572 provide little hand holding and do not involve traditional grading involving points, quizzes, etc. You will be expected to operate with an extremely high level of self-motivation and self-confidence, and to learn as much as you can on your own. If your work is done inadequately, you are asked to do it until it is acceptable. Do you have any concerns with this?
19. What do you like about IS in general?
20. What do you not like about IS in general?
21. What has been your worst IS course so far, and why?
22. What has been your best IS course so far, and why?
23. Describe any concerns and questions do you have about our program and about getting a Ph.D.?

24. Please also attach a current electronic version of your resume when you email in this application to Dr. Lowry (be sure that your resume has any honors, recognition, work experience, and so forth, that would set you apart).

When you have completed this form, please email it with your resume to: Paul.Lowry@BYU.edu

By emailing this electronic form you are certifying that all statements contained herein and on your resume are complete and true.

Notes: Admittance into the Ph.D. Prep. Track is conditional on acceptance into the MISM Program, and is not guaranteed as part of admission to the MISM.