



Metropolitan State University

College of Business and Management

**MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS GRADUATE
PROGRAM
STUDENT HANDBOOK**

2026-2027

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the Management Information Systems (MIS) graduate program. We hope that our students will engage in a transformative experience that will positively impact their lives and the lives of those around them. The graduate MIS program aims to prepare successful, ethical business professionals for significant leadership management of information systems roles in complex and changing organizations. Upon completion of the program, graduate-level MIS graduates will have accomplished the following learning objectives:

1. Apply ethical decision-making in the development, implementation, and management of information systems.
2. Apply current technical concepts and practices in the core information technologies and computer security.
3. Interpret the role of information systems to enhance organizational strategy.
4. Manage information systems using current methodologies.
5. Analyze business problems to develop appropriate technological solutions.
6. Demonstrate professional skills in leadership, teams, and communication.

Program goals and objectives

The MIS Graduate Program adheres to the Metropolitan State University (Metro State) and the College of Business and Management (CBM) mission, vision, and values which can be found on the University's website and the CBM website. Read the [Metro State vision, mission, and values](#) and the [CBM vision, mission, and values](#).

MIS Graduate Program Admissions Requirements

Students must have earned a baccalaureate or equivalent degree before beginning the graduate certificate or Master's program. In addition, applicants must demonstrate familiarity with information systems and technologies demonstrated by at least one of the following:

- Undergraduate degree in any discipline with 12 credits of undergraduate or graduate IT/IS/MIS-related coursework
- Earned industry certification in IT/IS/MIS-related area
- Work experience of at least one (1) year in IT/IS related role, or two (2) years in any functional business role with significant use of management information systems.

Students must also have completed an undergraduate or graduate Statistics course with a B or better or completion of MBA Math.

This prerequisite can be completed in the first year of the program, but completion in the first semester is highly recommended: A visual programming course or certificate. Courses at Metro

State that meet this requirement are listed below. This prerequisite can also be waived by the Director of the MIS Graduate Programs if sufficient evidence of visual programming knowledge is demonstrated through work experience.

- **ICS 141 Problem Solving with Programming - 4 credits**
- **MIS 328 Applications Development I - 4 credits**

Program requirements

The MIS Graduate Program is comprised of the Masters of Science in MIS (MSMIS) and the following graduate certificates:

- Management Information Systems Generalist
- Systems Analysis and Design

The number of credits required to earn the MSMIS is 36 credits. The number of credits to earn the certificates is as follows:

- Management Information Systems Generalist – 22 credits
- Systems Analysis and Design – 20 credits

Minimum grade requirements

Students enrolled in any MIS graduate program must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to remain in good standing in the program. Courses with grades less than a C do not count towards the degree or certificate.

Curriculum

Students enrolled in the MSMIS are expected to complete 36 credits to earn the degree with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The concentrations share core courses comprising 22 of the 36 credits:

- MIS 600 – Management Information Systems (4 credits)
- MIS 671- Problem Formulation and Problem Solving (4 credits)
- DSCI 620- Project Management (4 credits)
- MRKT 600 – Marketing Management (4 credits)
- MIS 694 – Cyber Ethics (2 credits)
- MIS 699 – Capstone (4 credits; taken in the last year of the program, preferably the last semester)

Students must enroll in 14 elective credits and must choose from the following courses:

Course Number and Title	Credits
MIS 621-Information Systems Analysis and Design	4
MIS 628-Applications Development I	4
MIS 635-Management and Use of Databases	4
MIS 653-Supply Chain Information Systems	4
MIS 667-Telecommunications	4
MIS 675-Risk Management	2
MIS 684-MIS Auditing and Security Controls	4
MIS 685-Data Mining	2
MIS 687-Business Analytics	4
MIS 688-Predictive Analytics	4
MIS 689-Applied Artificial Intelligence for Business	4

Students enrolled in the MSMIS program who are also completing the Project Management Graduate Certificate may use the courses needed to complete the Project Management Graduate Certificate as electives with the permission of the MIS Graduate Program Director.

All students must enroll in WKSP-GRAD-Graduation Workshop (0 credits) in their last semester. This course is required for all graduating students. This course prepares you for participating in commencement and provides critical information regarding the final steps necessary to receive your degree or certificate. This course is required for all students expecting to receive their degree from Metro State.

Independent Studies

Student-directed independent study may be used to complete the MSMIS program requirements. The pedagogical intent of the Student Directed Independent Study, 660i, course is to provide an individualized project/research experience for MS-IS students guided by a faculty in the CBM. Each independent study must generate a research project and a documented academic paper under the direction of a faculty member. It is the faculty member's prerogative to agree or not to serve as a project adviser.

Employment and internships do not constitute in and of themselves a sufficient basis for independent study credit. If the experience generates research project potential, then credit

may be negotiated. If a student is interested in completing an internship, they must enroll in MIS 650i with the approval of a faculty evaluator for the internship.

To enroll in an independent study, students must first complete the [Student Directed Independent Study Request Form](#). To enroll in an internship, students must first complete the [Internship Request Form](#).

The completed and signed request form is then submitted to the faculty member supervising the project for their signature, who then forwards the form to the **Department Chair** for approval. The form is sent to the Dean for final approval and to receive course registration information. In most cases, a maximum of four (4) credits of independent study may be applied toward the Masters degree or graduate certificate. For courses that exceed four (4) credits, the approval of the MIS Graduate Program Director is required.

Transfer credit rules and appeals processes

Students may transfer a maximum of 16 graduate credits from an accredited institution. These credits must be no more than five years old. Transfer credits are subject to the same minimum grade requirements as credits earned in the MIS Graduate Program. Credits earned through a completed degree are not eligible for transfer.

Allowable transfer of credits for graduate programs shall be governed by the relevant Minnesota State Procedure 3.36.1. The Graduate Director or Coordinator shall determine what credits to accept in transfer, equivalences (if any), and application to program requirements. Students shall be able to appeal transfer decisions.

Although Metro State allows for prior learning assessment credits, the MIS graduate program generally does not accept prior learning assessments. Students seeking an exception to this policy may request a Prior Learning Assessment through the Graduate Program Director and the Dean of the College of Business and Management. No more than four (4) graduate MIS credits will be approved, and are subject to the approval of the Dean of the College of Business and Management. Prior learning assessments must be requested in the first semester of enrollment. Students may create a portfolio that includes current work products, earned certificates, and letters of reference when preparing for a Prior Learning Assessment. Students also may be required to complete specific assignments for a class to earn prior learning credit. Prior learning assessments are not accepted for the following courses:

- MIS600-Management Information Systems
- MIS699-MIS Capstone Course
- MIS671-Problem Formulation and Problem Solving
- MIS687-Business Analytics
- MIS 688-Predictive Analytics
- MIS 689-Applied AI for Business

Advisor assignment and changing advisors

Upon admission to the MIS Graduate Program, each student is assigned a faculty advisor. If, after working with the assigned faculty, the student wishes to change advisors, the student must contact the MIS Department Chair for a change in advisor assignment.

Your faculty advisor has ten office hours that they devote to addressing student issues and concerns. In addition to working with you as an advisee, the faculty advisor also uses those ten office hours to meet with other students. If a faculty member is on the Bookings page, you may schedule a meeting with them during any of their available open appointment slots. Faculty advisors are only available during the academic year not including holidays or when the university is closed. Faculty generally do not provide advising over the weekend. During the summer, your advising questions should be addressed to the MIS Program Director.

Having a faculty advisor assigned at admission means that you will be able to connect with a faculty person who has strategic and professional knowledge of your degree program and possible career pathways. The faculty advisor can guide you on developmental questions that focus on curriculum, student development, and career planning.

Duties of Graduate Faculty Advisors:

- Assigned after acceptance of admission and stay with that advisee through to graduation
- Develop relationship with student as new admit
- Establish degree plan at outset of degree program
- Available during the academic year to advise students
- Connect students to campus resources
- Conduct persistence and retention tracking
- Monitor students through academic standing process (probation, warning, suspension)
- Conduct degree clearance
- Provide curriculum context and course planning
- Work with you on course-taking strategies
- Answer questions about working through faculty/course conflicts
- Mentor you on your career pathway
- Explore internships and employer networking or connections with you
- Support your development in the context of student learning outcomes for the program
- Answer questions related to discipline-related research questions

Advisor Contact Information:

Your advisor(s) and contact information can be found on your Degree Audit Report (DAR).

Program Plans

Students are expected to complete, in conjunction with their faculty advisor, a program plan during the first semester of enrollment. This program plan helps the students ensure the courses they plan to take are available during the desired semester. Most courses except MIS600, MIS699, MKTG600, and DSCI620 are only offered once an academic year. MIS 600, DSCI 620, and MIS699 are offered Fall, Spring, and Summer. MRKT600 is offered Fall and Spring. Please review the MIS Program Planner in Appendix A for the schedule of MIS graduate course offerings. Program plans can be changed as student interests change. Program plan changes must be discussed with the Faculty Advisor or Graduate Program Director.

Academic Standing Requirements and Appeals Processes

Students are expected to enroll in a minimum of eight (8) credits to be considered enrolled full-time. International students must enroll in eight (8) credits each semester excluding summer sessions, of which one course must be face-to-face, hybrid, or hyflex. **International students** enrolled in a hyflex course are expected to attend the course in-person.

To remain in good standing and qualify for graduation, students must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and complete 67% of graduate credits attempted at Metro State University. Grades below C do not earn credit nor apply to program requirements but are calculated in the cumulative grade point average. Students shall have a right to appeal academic suspensions and petition for reinstatement or readmission after suspension.

To apply for an academic appeal, please use the [Academic Appeal Form](#).

The Appeals Process

Metro State uses the following appeal process.

Step 1: Informal Resolution of Grade Disputes

You should first attempt to resolve an appeal issue informally with the instructor. An instructor shall respond to a student's informal appeal within 14 calendar days of receipt of the appeal. In response, the instructor may simply explain the origin of the grade or come to another mutually agreeable solution.

This attempt to resolve the grade dispute with the instructor of record is the only step in the informal appeal process for the student. At this point, the instructor may wish to contact the department chair and/or curriculum unit coordinator regarding the status of the appeal.

If the instructor has given no response to the student after 14 calendar days, the appeal is considered denied and the student may proceed to file a formal grade appeal.

Step 2: Formal Appeal Process

You must begin the formal appeal process within 60 calendar days of the posting of the grade or evaluation. Once the formal process has started, the student must use the appropriate university forms and meet deadlines as stated on the appeal form and in this policy.

1. To begin the formal appeal process, you must complete and submit an appeal form, available from the ombudsperson's office. The written appeal must include relevant information, such as your requested resolution of the grievance and any evidence or reasons you believe supports your requested resolution. Do not include information that is not relevant to the course grade as it will not be considered by the committee. The burden of proof rests with the student filing the appeal. If requested, the ombudsperson can guide you in formulating and filing an appeal.
2. Upon receipt of the appeal form, the ombudsperson forwards copies to the instructor and appropriate department chair and appropriate dean (and/or designee).
3. The formal appeal is first reviewed by the appropriate department chair. If the chair does not respond to the ombudsperson within 14 calendar days of receiving the appeal form, the appeal is considered denied. If denied, the appeal is then forwarded by the ombudsperson to the appropriate dean (and/or designee).
4. The appropriate dean (and/or designee) must notify the student and the ombudsperson in writing of their decision within 14 calendar days of receiving the notification. If the appeal is denied, the response needs to provide a rationale for the decision.
5. Within 14 calendar days of receipt of the dean's decision, you must notify the ombudsperson in order to bring the appeal before the Academic Appeals Committee. If you do not communicate with the committee via the ombudsperson within 14 calendar days, the ombudsperson shall bring a summary of the case to the committee, which will vote on whether to consider the case without the student being present at an appeal hearing or to close the appeal.
6. The Academic Appeals Committee hears the appeal at its next scheduled meeting. Faculty serving on the committee must remove themselves in cases directly involving their own classes. Following the hearing, the committee forwards its recommendation, in writing, to the provost within 14 calendar days of the hearing.
7. The provost and/or designee notifies, in writing, the student, ombudsperson, Academic Appeals Committee chair, appropriate dean, and instructor of their decision within 10 calendar days of receipt of the recommendation. This is the final step in the appeal process. **Decisions of the provost (or designee) are not appealable.**

Continuous registration, leave of absence, and time limit extensions

Starting with the semester for which they are admitted, students shall have up to five (5) years from the first date of enrollment to complete graduate certificates and master's degrees. Students are expected to enroll each semester not including summers while enrolled in the program. Students shall have the right to request a leave of absence and/or extensions of these time limits, including the right to appeal a negative decision. The request for a leave of absence or extension of the five-year time limit should be submitted in writing via email to the Director of the MIS Graduate Program.

Dismissal grounds and appeals

Students who do not meet academic requirements, have been found in violation of the academic integrity policy, or do not meet professional standards, dispositions or competencies required for a student earning a graduate degree may be dismissed from a graduate program and from the university.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity might best be defined, quite simply, as doing one's academic work without unauthorized assistance from other persons or resources. More specifically, academic integrity means that students take their coursework seriously and place significant value on learning and engagement in the classroom and while completing assignments and projects. Alleged academic misconduct is subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in the [University's policies and procedures on academic integrity](#).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is making use of other people's ideas, words, creative works, and expressions without giving credit or otherwise listing the source of the information. Plagiarism is also misrepresentation and includes handing in someone else's work, ideas, or answers as your own. Regardless of whether it happens inadvertently through sloppy research or on purpose through unethical behavior, it is plagiarism just the same and the person plagiarizing will be held liable. Alleged academic misconduct, such as plagiarism is subject to disciplinary action against the student as outlined in the [University's policies and procedures on academic integrity](#).

Statement on Discrimination and Harassment

In accordance with federal and state law, Metro State does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, and protected U.S. veteran status (collectively referred to as "Protected Status") in its programs, activities, or employment.

This policy prohibits all forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment based on Protected Status. In addition, this policy prohibits purposefully assisting in an act that violates this policy (i.e., complicity) and prohibits retaliation against any individual who in good faith participates in protected activity. Metro State also provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of reports of discrimination, harassment, complicity, and retaliation. The university's [Office of Equity and Inclusion](#) is responsible for investigating discrimination complaints on behalf of the university.

All Metro State administration, supervisors, faculty, staff, and students are responsible for completing the university's annual non-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation training program. The training program is specifically designed for its target audience (e.g., students, staff, faculty, supervisors, etc.) and is intended to assist university community members in understanding this policy.

The university has separate guidelines that govern concerns of Title IX sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking. The university also has a non-retaliation guideline that prohibits retaliation against persons who engage in protected activities.

Professionalism

MIS graduate students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds high standards of professionalism. These standards must provide a foundation for your actions inside and outside the classroom. Students committing unprofessional or unethical acts, whether from carelessness, ignorance, or malice, quickly lose the respect of their peers and others.

If you witness unprofessional or unethical acts, you should first address the issue with the individual(s) involved. Acts of a serious nature must be discussed with the Director of MIS Graduate Programs, the MIS Department Chair, or the CBM Dean. In all cases, prompt attention to the issue at hand is desired to maintain the cohesiveness of the MIS Graduate student body and the integrity of the program.

Appendix A. Program Planner Summer 2026-Spring 2028

NOTE: A course may be cancelled due to low enrollment. Also, a modality may be changed depending on student composition.

Required Courses for All Students

Course Title	Crs	Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027	Fall 2027	Spring 2028
MIS 600-Management Info Systems	4	Online Async	Hybrid	Hybrid	Online Async	Hybrid	Hybrid
MIS 671-Problem Formulation	4			Online Sync			Online Sync
MIS694-Cyber Ethics	2		Online Async			Online Async	
DSCI 620-Project Management	4	Online	Hybrid	Online	Online	Hybrid	Online
MKTG 600-Marketing Management	4		Hybrid	Online Accel Async		Hybrid	Online Accel Async
MIS699-Capstone (taken in the final semester)	4	Online Async	Hybrid	Hybrid	Online Async	Hybrid	Hybrid

Electives (14 required)

Course Title	Crs	Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027	Fall 2027	Spring 2028
MIS 621-Information Systems Analysis and Design	4	Online Async	Online Sync	In Person	Online Async	Online Sync	In Person
MIS 628-Applications Development I	4		Hybrid	Online Sync		Hybrid	Online Sync
MIS 635-Management and Use of Databases	4	Online Async	Hybrid	Online Sync	Online Async	Hybrid	Online Sync
MIS 653-Supply Chain Information Systems	4	Online Async	Online Sync		Online Async	Online Sync	
MIS 667-Telecommunications	4		Online Async	In Person		Online Async	In Person

Course Title	Crs	Summer 2026	Fall 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027	Fall 2027	Spring 2028
MIS 675-Risk Management	2		Online Async			Online Async	
MIS 684-MIS Auditing and Security Controls	4			In Person			In Person
MIS 685-Data Mining	2			Online Async			Online Async
MIS 687-Business Analytics	4		Hybrid			Hybrid	
MIS 688-Predictive Analytics	4			Online Async			Online Async
MIS 689-Applied Artificial Intelligence for Business	4			Hybrid			Hybrid