The Department of Computer Information System

The Computer Information Systems (CIS) Department at Philadelphia University was founded in 2003 as one of the leading Computer Information Systems Departments (CIS) offering bachelor degree in Computer Information Systems in Jordan. This newly established undergraduate programme addresses the growing need for professionals capable of integrating computing into Business in order to enhance the outcomes of the different organizations and be able to compete internationally.

The strategies of the Department are set to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving world, and to meet the needs of a developing job market. The curriculum is regularly reviewed to maintain quality of teaching and relevant content. The teaching programme is fully modularized and a semester-based teaching structure is followed by the Department.
The CIS department solicits students who like to work with computers, enjoy problem solving, and like working in teams to solve complex business problems.

Why Computer Information System?

Computer Information Systems involves the design, development, and maintenance of information systems that support both business operations and managerial decision-making. Students learn the fundamentals of software application development, database administration, and network deployment. Special emphasis is placed on business process workflows, systems integration, and project management. The focus throughout the program is on using information technology to add value to organizations. The coursework prepares student for a career in information systems, including such specializations as systems analysis, application development, database administration, systems integration, and project management. The programme places strong emphasis on preparation for professional positions in computer information systems, including both theory and practice.

Students gain extensive experience with the technology and practices in use within businesses as well as strategic use of information technology. Graduates are well prepared not only for entry-level positions but also for advancing to C-level positions such as Chief Information Officer (CIO), Chief Technology Officer (CTO), or Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Goals of the Computer Information Systems Programme
1. To provide graduates with a thorough grounding in the key principles and practices of computing, and in the basic mathematical and scientific principles that underpin them.
2. To provide graduates with an understanding of the overall human context in which scientific and computing activities take place.
3. To prepare graduates for both immediate employment in the computing profession and for admission to graduate programmes in computing.

The Programme Outcomes
a. Demonstrate proficiency in the areas of software design and development, algorithms, operating systems, programming languages, and architecture.
b. Demonstrate proficiency in relevant aspects of mathematics, including discrete mathematics.
c. Successfully apply these principles and practices to a variety of problems.
d. Obtain an understanding of social, professional and ethical issues related to computing.
e. Students will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
f. A large fraction of graduates will be immediately employed in high-technology companies that utilize their computing education.
g. Strong graduates from the programme will be prepared to enter good graduate programmes in Computer Information Systems.

Teaching
The Department turns out highly qualified graduates with sound understanding of Computer Information Systems. The excellent framework we have including the Staff, the most modern curriculum, top- niche labs, and a dynamic environment all contribute to an outstanding teaching outcome for our Computer Information Systems programme. Field trips for Information Systems Organizations are encouraged. Different Case-Studies as part of the students' practical work are implemented throughout the semesters. Offering both innovative and state-of-the-industry undergraduate programme, the CIS department is committed to producing the next generation of IT professionals.

Staff and Students

There are around 6 full-time members of academic staff in the Department specialized in different areas, in addition to the administrative and technical support staff. The department is expected to have more faculty members for next year. Teaching is our first concern at Computer Information Systems Department, where the spirit of information technology is truly implemented far from the complications of theoretical computer science. The new world economy is more dependent on people who can use the computer and develop existing systems. Our faculty members have strong background in computer-based management and administration. Most of our staff received their degrees from various European and US universities. The Department applies a rigorous and effective recruitment procedure (each applicant should qualify for an interview and give a presentation).

The number of students is approximately 135. However, we are expected to grow next year to accommodate more than 30% new students in coming year.
Visiting lecturers are encouraged and contribute to the intellectual and social life of the Department. Staff and students together form a lively community and a stimulating learning and working environment. The Department has a tradition of giving an induction training (ranging between 30 and 45 days) to newly recruited staff. The training is both pedagogical and subject oriented.

Research

Research is highly encouraged at the department of the Computer Information Systems. Research covers several aspects of theory and application, with strong emphasis on databases, mobile computing systems, e-commerce, data-mining, multi-agent systems, decision-support systems and many other subjects. In the fields of IT, it is crucial to keep up with research and utilize its outcomes in teaching. The Department provides research grants and financial support to publish research work, enabling staff members to attend local and international scientific conferences and seminars. Five percent of the total annual budget of the University is allocated for funding research and scientific conferences. The University offers an annual subsidy for research projects, which includes expenses for references, research requirements and travel.

Undergraduate Degree Programme

Entry to Computer Information Systems degree programmes is governed by regulations issued by the Higher Education Council for private universities (at least 70% on the Tawjihi exam - Scientific stream).

Structure Of Undergraduate Degree Programme

Teaching is structured according to modular scheme and takes the form of a combination of lectures, tutorials and practical classes. Each academic year comprises of two semesters and is referred to as a 'Year' (i.e. Years 1, 2, 3, and 4). The degree programme enables students to undertake professional training in the 3rd year, and a research project in the final year.

Year One

It covers the introduction to the subject and requires no prior knowledge or experience in computers. It provides an introduction to fundamental disciplines and skills through lectures, tutorials, individual and group work.

Year Two

Students in year 2 are introduced to different programming paradigms and the study of software and hardware systems. The first and second year courses (modules) are considered introductory courses.

Year Three

Studies in year 3 expand the topics introduced in year 2 to provide an opportunity for professional training courses. These are considered intermediate level courses.

Year Four

In the final year, apart from taking a common core of compulsory topics, students choose modules prepare them for their future career where, for example, some graduates may be expected to develop large-scale software projects. They have to be prepared to understand the underlying theory. Students will also need to expand the knowledge and skills needed to manage and lead in a work environment. Courses at this level are called advanced level courses.

Final Year Research Project

The ultimate goal of undertaking project is to demonstrate that the student is capable of independent work and/or group work. It also provides mechanism to consolidate relevant material taught in the undergraduate program and allows its application to the solution or analysis of a particular problem. The new attitude for the final year projects is to stress on the application of CASE tools, advanced databases and multimedia, Fourth Generation Languages, different Database Packages in all the stages of the Final year project. New programming environments such as Open Source Programming, .net programming and Open GL are encouraged. Scientific research based project are also highly recommended specially for students with intentions to join graduate schools.

Assessment

Assessment is done through different ways and is declared at the beginning of the semester through the distribution of a well formulated syllabus that has common format for all the modules. Arrangements for the assessment of each module are set out in detail in the rules for progression between years. And the final degree classification is given in the programme regulations and module specifications. Assessment may take several forms including traditional written examinations, coursework, tests and oral presentations, as appropriate. In some modules, students are asked to use the internet to retrieve related material and organize reports and documents. At the Computer Information Systems Department, great emphasis is put on the practical part of the module. Projects are a must in most of the programme modules. The skills associated with working in teams are learned and assessed in group projects.

How to Apply

Prospective students are advised to consult the edition of the University's undergraduate handbook relevant to their intended year of entry. They can also contact the head of the department who will advise and give further details about the teaching program. Students who have access to internet are advised to consult the department's website and send e-mail or any types of inquiries to the Department head.

Philadelphia University

Faculty of Information Technology

Department of
Computer Information Systems (CIS)

Tel: 962 – 6 - 4799000
Fax: 962 – 6 – 4799040

Ext: 2502

E-Mail: info@philadelphia.edu.jo
Web Site: www.philadelphia.edu.jo