



**SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FORMS**

Substantive Program Modification Form

Use this form to request minor changes in existing programs (majors, minors, certificates, or specializations).

UNIVERSITY:	NSU
CURRENT PROGRAM DEGREE:	Bachelor of Science
CURRENT PROGRAM MAJOR/MINOR:	Management Information Systems
CURRENT SPECIALIZATION (If applicable):	
CIP CODE:	11.1099
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT:	Management, Marketing, and MIS
BANNER DEPARTMENT CODE:	NMMM
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE:	School of Business
BANNER COLLEGE CODE:	5B

University Approval

To the Board of Regents and the Executive Director: I certify that I have read this proposal, that I believe it to be accurate, and that it has been evaluated and approved as provided by university policy.

Michael Wanous

Vice President of Academic Affairs or
President of the University

10/7/2025

Date

1. This modification addresses a change in (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Total credits required within the discipline | ☐ Total credits of supportive course work |
| ☐ Total credits of elective course work | ☐ Total credits required for program |
| ☒ Program name | ☐ Existing specialization |
| ☐ CIP Code | ☐ Other (explain below) |
| ☐ Modification requiring Board of Regents approval
<i>Must have prior approval from Executive Director or designee</i> | |

2. Effective date of change: 8/1/2026

3. Program Degree Level (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

Associate ☐ Bachelor's ☒ Master's ☐ Doctoral ☐

4. Category (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

Certificate ☐ Specialization ☐ Minor ☐ Major ☒

5. If a name change is proposed, the change will occur (place an "X" in the appropriate box):

- ☒ On the effective date for all students
- ☐ On the effective date for students new to the program (enrolled students will graduate from existing program)

Proposed new name: **Information Systems**

Reminder: Name changes may require updating related articulation agreements, site approvals, etc.

6. Is the program being modified associated with a current articulation agreement?

Yes ☐ No ☒

a. If yes, will the articulation agreement need to be updated with the partner institution following the approve of the program change? Please explain:

7. Primary Aspects of the Modification (add lines or adjust cell size as needed):

Existing Curriculum				Proposed Curriculum (highlight changes)			
Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.	Pref.	Num.	Title	Cr. Hrs.
		Business Core Courses				Business Core Courses	
				CSC	147	Survey of Artificial Intelligence	3
				MIS	480	Business Intelligence	3
ACCT	210	Principles of Accounting I	3	ACCT	210	Principles of Accounting I	3
ACCT	211	Principles of Accounting II	3				
BADM	102	Professional Development & Planning	1	BADM	102	Professional Development & Planning	1
BADM	220	Business Statistics	3	BADM	220	Business Statistics	3
BADM	244	Business Communications	3	BADM	244	Business Communications	3
BADM	310	Business Finance	3				
BADM	350	Legal Environment of Business	3	BADM	350	Legal Environment of Business	3
BADM	360	Organization & Management	3	BADM	360	Organization & Management	3
BADM	370	Marketing	3	BADM	370	Marketing	3
BADM	457	Business Ethics	3	BADM	457	Business Ethics	3

CSC	273	Spreadsheet Data Analysis	3	CSC	273	Spreadsheet Data Analysis	3
ECON	201	Principles of Microeconomics	3	ECON	201	Principles of Microeconomics	3
MIS	325	Management Information Systems	3	MIS	325	Management Information Systems	3
FYS	101	First Year Seminar	2-3	FYS	101	First Year Seminar	2
		MIS Core Courses				MIS Core Courses	
MIS	150	Computer Science	3	MIS	150	Computer Science	3
		Or				OR	
CSC	150	Computer Science	3	CSC	150	Computer Science	3
MIS	210	Introduction to Web Application Development	3	MIS	210	Introduction to Web Application Development	3
MIS	332	Structured System Analysis & Design	3	MIS	332	Structured System Analysis & Design	3
MIS	335	Telecommunications & Networks for Business	3	MIS	335	Networking I	3
MIS	404	IT Security & Information Assurance	3	MIS	404	IT Security & Information Assurance	3
MIS	484	Database Management Systems	3	MIS	484	Database Management Systems	3
MIS	485	Information Systems Strategy	3	MIS	485	Information Systems Strategy	3
				OR			
				BADM	482	Business Policy and Strategy	3
		MIS Electives				MIS Electives (Select 4)	
				MIS	371	Survey of Data Structures	3
				ACCT	211	Principles of Accounting II	3
				BADM	310	Business Finance	3
BADM	424	Operations Research	3	BADM	424	Operations Research	3
BADM	469	Project Management	3	BADM	469	Project Management	3
CSC	250	Computer Science II	3	CSC	250	Computer Science II	3
		Or				OR	
MIS	250	Computer Science II	3	MIS	250	Computer Science II	3
MIS	292	Topics	1-5	MIS	292	Topics	1-5
MIS	385	Data Mining	3	MIS	385	Data Mining	3
MIS	414	IT Auditing	3	MIS	414	IT Auditing	3
MIS	423	Server Construction & Configuration	3	MIS	423	Server Construction & Configuration	3
				MIS	424	Enterprise Resource Planning	3
MIS	461	Programming Languages	3	MIS	461	Programming Languages	3
MIS	480	Business Intelligence	3				
MIS	494	Internship	1-12	MIS	494	Internship	1-12
MIS	498	Research	1-6	MIS	498	Research	1-6
Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization			72	Total number of hours required for major, minor, or specialization			72
Total number of hours required for degree			120	Total number of hours required for degree			120

8. Explanation of the Change:

Since the 1990s, Northern's Management Information Systems (MIS) program has been one of the key programs within the NSU School of Business. Northern has successfully prepared students for dynamic careers at the intersection of business and technology. Northern has a proud legacy of producing graduates who can manage technology projects, analyze business needs, and implement effective systems. Graduates including Jake Vandewater are making significant contributions in their field: <https://sdncommunications.com/about/our-people/jake-vandewater>

However, the landscape of technology and business has undergone a seismic shift. The field our students enter is no longer just about *managing* information systems; it is about *creating*, *innovating*, and *leading* with information systems. Northern's curriculum has evolved significantly to meet this new reality. Faculty in the program teach data analytics, database concepts, cybersecurity principles, and coding. These skills far exceed the traditional scope of "management."

Today Northern is faced with a gap, not in our curriculum, but in our identity. Our program name, "Management Information Systems," no longer accurately reflects the modern, comprehensive, and technically rigorous education our faculty provide. It is a legacy title from a previous era (the 1990s when the program was introduced), and it is hindering the University's ability to attract top students and communicate our value to employers.

Therefore, Northern State University is changing the program name to **Information Systems (IS)**. The proposed change is a strategic imperative to align the program name with the dynamic and technology-focused curriculum, the expectations of the industry, and the standards of modern academia.

For substantial modifications requiring Board approval, complete the items below. References to external sources should be documented with a footnote (including web addresses where applicable).

9. Date of approval from the Executive Director or designee.

10. Identify the program modification requested.

Northern State University is changing the name of the Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems to the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems.

11. Provide justification for the desired modification.

Adopting the name "Information Systems" is a forward-thinking move that offers immediate and lasting benefits, including:

Clarity and Accuracy: The BS Information Systems precisely describes a broad field dedicated to the entire life cycle of information technology from design and development to strategic implementation and security.

Modernity and Relevance: The BS Information Systems is the current, industry-standard term, immediately understood by prospective students, current students, employers, and academics.

Breadth and Flexibility: The name Information Systems is an umbrella term that represents the modern field including data analytics, systems, security, and digital product development. It gives Northern's program room to grow enrollments and better serve industry partners without being constrained by an outdated descriptor.

The word "Management" in the current title creates three significant challenges:

1. **Outdated Perception and Student Recruitment:** Today's prospective students are digital natives. When they search for technology-focused business programs, they search for modern terms like "Information Systems," "Data Analytics," or "Business Technology." The term "Management Information Systems" often conjures an image of mainframe computers and top-down corporate structures from the 1990s. The MIS title is creating a perception of a less viable, less relevant, and less appealing program to the talented students we seek to attract. With the MIS title, Northern is quite literally, failing to optimize our search-engine presence in the competitive academic marketplace.
 2. **Misalignment with Industry and Employer Expectations:** Recruiters and corporate partners are looking for graduates who can build, analyze, and secure systems. While our students have these skills, our program name suggests a narrower, less technical focus. When a recruiter searches for candidates from an "Information Systems" program, they expect a graduate with a broad technical and strategic set of skills. The "MIS" designation forces our students and career services staff to spend valuable time explaining that our program is, in fact, the modern equivalent of an IS degree. This places our graduates at an immediate and unnecessary disadvantage. Changing to "Information Systems" removes this friction and instantly signals to employers that Northern graduates have the relevant, in-demand skills they require.
 3. **Falling Behind Academic Standards:** The shift from "MIS" to "IS" is not a trend; it is the established norm. A review of our peer institutions reveals a decisive consensus. Leading universities across the nation have already made this transition. They did so for the same reasons we have outlined: to better reflect their curricula, to attract students, and to align with the modern marketplace.
12. Would the requested modification require a change to the catalog description and/or the program learning outcomes? If so, describe.

The modification will not require a change to the catalog description or the program learning outcomes.

13. Indicate the number of students currently enrolled in the program.

Academic Year	Number of majors
Fall 2019	14
Fall 2020	15
Fall 2021	15
Fall 2022	13
Fall 2023	14
Fall 2024	8
Fall 2025	7

14. Describe the real impact to students.

The real impact on the students will be offering a program that is represented by a name that truly describes the learning outcomes and the courses in the program. By earning a B.S. in Information Systems, employers will recognize the skills the students possess. Graduates of the program will be equipped to lead with integrity, ethical awareness, and adaptability in an ever-evolving professional landscape.

Northern's Information Systems degree emphasizes experiential learning through a modern, practice-oriented curriculum. Students gain valuable hands-on experiences that prepare them for careers in technology-driven industries. Knowledge of information systems can be applied across various industries, including for-profits, non-profits, government agencies, healthcare, and education.

The program also fosters cross-disciplinary collaboration with areas such as Marketing, GIS, and Finance, while also supporting faculty research initiatives. Additionally, it serves as a bridge between the university and the community, strengthening outreach efforts and partnerships with groups such as the Northern Innovation and Startup Center, Kids Who Code, and Empowering Innovators.

15. Describe the real impact to the university.

The name change will enable the University to promote a high need program, grow enrollments, and transparently meet industry demands. The new name will strengthen student recruitment, enhance graduate placement opportunities, and reaffirm our university's commitment to providing a relevant, modern, and forward-looking education.

Northern State University's industry partners, including Applied Digital, Eide Bailly, the Northern Innovation and Startup Center, and the Aberdeen Development Corporation, support the name change to BS Information Systems.

16. Describe any cost associated with the program modification.

Most of the courses, excluding CSC147, are developed, and the faculty are already part of the School of Business.

17. Describe any risks and unintended consequences associated with the program modification.

No risks or unintended consequences are anticipated, as the proposal seeks to alleviate the low enrollments in the program historically and create more effective recruitment strategies for a high impact program. The name change is a direct response to the low enrollment concerns and is a low-cost, high-reward opportunity to reposition our program for a new generation of students and a new era of technology.

18. Would this modification be effective for current and future students, or only students who enroll following the change?

This modification would be effective for current and future students. The current students in the MIS program will be shifted to the IS program.