



What can I do with a major in **INFORMATION & DECISION SCIENCES** from Valparaiso University?

Description of major:

Computer and information technologies are changing rapidly and drastically affecting the nature of work and communication. The information and decision sciences field consists of three major components: information technology, operations management and statistics. This major is grounded in a scientific approach to decision making that makes extensive use of quantitative analysis and computer technology. Information and Decision Sciences is interdisciplinary in nature and applies to a variety of business fields including marketing, finance, accounting, production, and transportation.

Relevant skills for an INFORMATION & DECISION SCIENCES major:

- ◆ Analyze communication situations
- ◆ Analyze community needs
- ◆ Analyze manpower requirements
- ◆ Anticipate problems before they arise
- ◆ Collect and organize data
- ◆ Communicate with individuals and groups
- ◆ Conduct statistical analysis
- ◆ Critique
- ◆ Diagnose
- ◆ Gather data and information
- ◆ Interview
- ◆ Make decisions
- ◆ Organize/classify
- ◆ Perceive/define cause and effect relationship
- ◆ Perform ambiguous tasks
- ◆ Present results of research
- ◆ Process and analyze data and information
- ◆ Solve problems
- ◆ Recognize elements, relationships, structures & organizing principles
- ◆ Review large amounts of material and extract essence
- ◆ Solve problems through thinking
- ◆ Systematize/organize material
- ◆ Trace problems to their sources
- ◆ Trouble-shoot
- ◆ Work independently
- ◆ and others!

Sample work activities for Graduates in INFORMATION & DECISION SCIENCES (some may require an advanced degree)

- Actuary
- Budget Analyst
- Computer Programmer
- Database Manager
- Financial Analyst
- Information Systems Analyst/Designer
- Management Consultant
- Market Research Analyst
- Operations Manager
- Operations Research
- Production Scheduler
- Production Superintendent
- Project Manager
- Quality Control Agent
- Professor/Instructor
- Researcher
- Resource Planner
- Statistical Analyst
- Statistician
- Systems Analyst
- Systems Consultant
- Systems Manager
- Technical Writer
- Traffic Manager
- and others!

Potential hiring institutions for INFORMATION & DECISION SCIENCES majors:

- ◆ Armed Services (military & civilian)
- ◆ Corporations
- ◆ Colleges and Universities
- ◆ Consulting Firms
- ◆ Financial Institutions
- ◆ Government Agencies
- ◆ Insurance Companies
- ◆ Investment Firms
- ◆ Manufacturing Industries
- ◆ Market Research Companies
- ◆ Non-profit Organizations
- ◆ Research & Development Firms
- ◆ Retailers & Wholesalers
- ◆ and others!

Area of further education for INFORMATION & DECISION SCIENCES majors:

- ◆ Actuarial Science
- ◆ Business Administration/Management
- ◆ Computer Science
- ◆ Education
- ◆ Electronic Commerce
- ◆ Entrepreneurship
- ◆ Financial Engineering
- ◆ Information Science
- ◆ Insurance
- ◆ International Business
- ◆ Law
- ◆ Logistics
- ◆ Management Information Systems
- ◆ Management Strategy & Policy
- ◆ Marketing Research
- ◆ Project Management
- ◆ Quantitative Analysis
- ◆ Systems Science
- ◆ Transportation Management
- ◆ and others!

Sources of additional information for INFORMATION & DECISION SCIENCES majors:

VU College of Business Administration: <http://www.valpo.edu/cba/undergrad/ids.php/>

Occupational Outlook Handbook: the US Bureau of Labor Statistics compiles information about various occupations, including the nature of the work, the job outlook, the earnings, and other relevant information. <http://stats.bls.gov/oco/home.htm>

American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS): The Educational Society for Resource Management <http://www.apics.org>

American Statistical Association: a scientific and educational that promotes excellence in the application of statistical science across the wealth of human endeavor. Has a Job Site and information about Careers in Statistics. <http://www.amstat.org/>

Argonne National Laboratory, Division of Decision & Information Sciences: develop innovative decision tools, models, and information systems and apply them to the resolution of energy, environmental, and other related problems of regional, national, and global significance. <http://www.dis.anl.gov/>

Association for Information Systems: for academics specializing in Information Systems <http://www.aisnet.org/>

Association for Women in Computing: Promoting the advancement of women in the computing professions. <http://www.awc-hq.org/>

Decision Sciences Institute: an interdisciplinary, international organization dedicated to the advancement of the science and practice of education and research about business decisions. <http://www.decisionsciences.org/>

Decision Sciences Web: Information and resources about decision sciences. http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/S03.cws_home/main

Institute for Operations Research and Management Science: represents professionals in the fields of operations research and the management sciences. <http://www.informs.org>

Society for Industrial & Applied Mathematics: advances the application of mathematics and computational science to

VU Career Center Resource Library Materials:

- ◆ *100 Best Nonprofits to Work for*
- ◆ *Book of U.S. Government Jobs: Where They Are, What's Available, and How to Get One*
- ◆ *Career Opportunities in Banking, Finance, and Insurance*
- ◆ *Career Opportunities in Computers and Cyberspace*
- ◆ *Careers for Number Crunchers & Other Quantitative Types*
- ◆ *Essays that Worked for Law Schools*

- ◆ *GMAT 2003*
- ◆ *Graduate Admissions Essays: Write Your Way into the Graduate School of Your Choice*
- ◆ *Graduate Schools in the U.S*
- ◆ *Guide to America's Federal Jobs*
- ◆ *Harvard Business School Guide to Careers in Management Consulting*
- ◆ *Harvard Business School Guide to Careers in the Nonprofit Sector*
- ◆ *LSAT 2006*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Computer Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Government Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Law Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Library and Information Science Careers*
- ◆ *Opportunities in Retailing Careers*
- ◆ *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Business School*
- ◆ *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Graduate School*
- ◆ *Peterson's Game Plan for Getting into Law School*
- ◆ *Peterson's Graduate & Professional Programs in Business, Education, Health, Information Studies, Law & Social Work*
- ◆ *Peterson's Graduate & Professional Programs, an Overview*
- ◆ *Resumes for Business Management Careers*
- ◆ *Resumes for Computer Careers*
- ◆ *Resumes for High Tech Careers*
- ◆ *Undergraduate's Guide to Corporate Leadership Development Programs*
- ◆ *and others!*

For more information about majoring in INFORMATION & DECISION SCIENCES, contact:

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For more questions about your career decisions, please make an appointment with a VU Career Counselor by calling 464-5005, stopping by the Career Center in Alumni Hall or e-mailing us at Career.Center@valpo.edu
