

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program Name: Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT)

CIP Code: 11.1099

College or School: School of Computing

Department: Information Technology

Date of Last Internal Review: N/A

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement): N / A

Current Date: 3/11/2020

Provost Response: *Provide a summary related to the program productivity, viability, and quality. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The BSIT program has had a significant increase in enrollment and graduation rates over the last five years. Enrollment has grown by 6.57% and the graduation rate by 10.33%. The outstanding work of the dean, chair, and faculty members shows within the program productivity. The BSIT is a viable degree for today's work environment. BSIT students are well trained and better prepared for their future careers in this every changing technology world we live in today.

The BSIT program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET. They were also successful in getting additional accreditation from ABET for the BSIT program, National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (NSA/DHS) in Cyber Security, and the Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3) in Cyber Forensics.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in _____.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

Program will be placed on a monitoring status.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

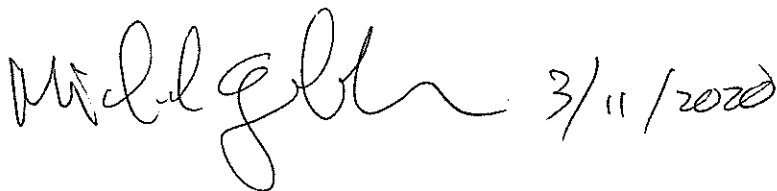
Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature: Dr. Michael Gibbons on behalf of the Provost, Dr. Jon Anderson

Date: 3/11/2020

 3/11/2020

Comprehensive Program Review Report

Academic Program Name: Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

College or School: Computing

Department: Information Technology

Date of Last Internal Review: March 2020

Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable):

Current Date: March 4, 2020

Executive Summary: *Provide a summary related to the program productivity, viability, and quality. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The Department of IT will continue to offer the BSIT in the existing modalities. The Department expects continued enrollment growth through academic excellence, raise national awareness, raised local and national reputation, and effective recruiting opportunities. The Department will maintain the prestigious accreditations and designations that the faculty have earned. The Department will continue to engage alumni, current, and future students through outreach efforts, service, scholarship, and teaching. Leaders in the School of Computing will monitor changes in technology and adapt to the needs of our students and the community.

Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.

Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

Program will be placed on a monitoring status.

Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.

Program will be deactivated.

Program will be voluntarily terminated.

Other (identify/add text):

Academic Dean Signature:

Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable):

Date:

3/4/2020



Comprehensive Program Review

FY 2019 – 2020

Institution: Middle Georgia State University

Academic Program: BS Information Technology

College or School: School of Computing

Department: Department of Information Technology

CIP Code: 11.1099

Date of Last Internal Review: 2018

Faculty Completing Report: Johnathan Yerby

Current Date: November 7, 2019

5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

Combined INTO and INTE Enrollment by Campus

Campus	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	5 YR Growth
Macon	239	258	208	278	255	1.63%
Cochran	29	52	67	77	69	24.2%
Dublin	11	11	11	17	10	-2.35%
Eastman	0	0	0	0	1	100%
Online	267	292	336	343	410	11.32%
Warner Robins	78	47	50	48	56	-7.95%
Off Campus	0	0	0	6	4	-33.3%
Total	624	660	672	769	805	6.57%

Combined INTO and INTE Graduates

AY 2015	AY 2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	AY 2019	5 YR Growth
81	75	86	90	120	10.33%

Include a narrative that discusses:

- Program purpose and mission
- Align of program mission with department, school, and institutional mission

- Program age, tracks, concentrations, etc
- Accreditation information/status
- Method(s) of delivery
- Changes since last review
- Benchmarks of progress
- Plans for action
- Shifting trends and market forces that may impact program demand

****The narrative should be as direct as possible and no longer than three pages.***

The School of Computing, Department of Information Technology's Bachelor of Science in IT program is innovative, flexible, and convenient. The Department of IT is dedicated to developing degree programs to meet existing and future professional needs relating to technology. The Department produces graduates with a diverse set of skills and experiences, which prepares them to take on IT and leadership professional roles. Information Technology courses focus on critical thinking, problem solving, ethics, decision making, applied knowledge, as well as interpersonal and communication skills.

The format of our Bachelor of Science program has served the students, industry, and the department well. The Department is able to keep the well established BSIT program that has been offered for over twenty years and add concentrations to meet shifting trends and market demand. In the past two years the Department added new concentrations in data analytics and critical infrastructure management. The software development concentration evolved into two distinct areas of software engineering and web applications development as the professional positions adjusted. An advantage of the single BSIT degree with eight different concentrations is that all of the program is accredited, assessable, and flexible.

The mission of the Department of IT supports and aligns with the MGA vision to "transform individuals and their communities through extraordinary higher learning" by creating graduates that are able to thrive in desirable professional positions across nearly all industries. The department adheres to MGA core values of Stewardship, Engagement, Adaptability, and Learning. Students learn the value of time, money, and effort through hands-on work and research across courses. Students learn to be flexible with an ever-changing landscape of technology. Engagement is promoted throughout the department with in-class interactions, extra-curricular activities, community involvement, and access to professional seminars and conferences. The BSIT program aims to prepare students to solve problems and apply technologies within an increasingly interconnected and changing global environment. Career success through lifelong learning and professional development is emphasized at all levels of the curriculum.

The Bachelor of Science program is offered in Macon, Cochran, Warner Robins, and online. Students often choose to take some of their program of study online regardless of their location. The online offering is currently the largest portion of the BSIT program. Cochran had a 24.2% five-year growth rate as we've made a dedicated effort to offer more face-to-face courses and assigning a full-time faculty to the campus. Warner Robins has a decline of 7.95% in the five-year rate. The Department of IT is offering classes in Warner Robins in the evening. Furthermore we will be opening a new Center for Software Innovation (CSI) that may revitalize IT in Warner Robins. The offering in Macon grew 1.63% in the five-year growth rate. The department will continue to seek to manageable growth and meet the needs of

the on-campus and online learners. The online offerings have experienced the highest five-year growth enrollment due to increased recruiting, articulation agreements, and success with additional accreditation from ABET for the BSIT program, National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (NSA/DHS) in Cyber Security, and the Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3) in Cyber Forensics.

The academic program allows students to explore their personal and professional interest within the field of information technology through concentrations in Critical Infrastructure Management, Cybersecurity, Cyber Forensics, Web Applications Development, Software Engineering, Networking Technologies and Administration, Integrated Digital Media and Game Design, Data Analytics, Financial Technology, and Health Informatics.

We anticipated that, within a few years after graduation, our graduates will

1. Assume productive roles in IT-related positions, such as analyst, systems administrator, software developer, webmaster, systems analyst, information security officer, investigator, designer, and database administrator; and
2. Pursue life-long learning enabling them to adapt and grow as organizational responsibilities change

The Department of Information Technology's BSIT program goals focus on what graduates are expected to attain within a few years of graduation. A periodic review of the goals ensures that they remain consistent with the institutional mission and the needs of our constituents. The reviews include input from the School's advisory board, the use of an area employer survey, and the use of an alumni survey.

The Advisory Board of the School of Information Technology consists of professionals in the Information Technology field in our region. The Advisory Board meets twice yearly with the Dean, Associate Dean, Chair, and faculty members of the School. The advisory board communicates the needs of the IT community in our region, strengths and weaknesses of IT graduates regarding their employment, and the anticipated needs of IT organizations.

An employer survey is conducted every five years. This survey provides the Department with information about the skills required to support organizations. Survey results are shared with the Advisory Board and the faculty members. The results will be used for evaluation of the program and any revisions of the program goals, student learning outcomes, and the BSIT curriculum/courses. The next employer survey will be conducted in Fall 2019.

Every five years, a survey will be administered to the alumni from the Department of IT. This survey will gather information regarding the positions in which the alumni have worked since graduation. It will also contain questions about additional educational opportunities that the alumni have pursued since graduation.

The Department of Information Technology's Student Outcomes are as follows:

1. Analyze a complex computing problem and to apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.
2. Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.

3. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.
4. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.
5. Function effectively as a member or leader of a team engaged in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.
6. Identify and analyze user needs and to take them into account in the selection, creation, integration, evaluation, and administration of computing-based systems.

The Department of IT will continue to offer the BSIT in the existing modalities. The Department expects continued enrollment growth through academic excellence, raise national awareness, raised local and national reputation, and effective recruiting opportunities. The Department will maintain the prestigious accreditations and designations that the faculty have earned. The Department will continue to engage alumni, current, and future students through outreach efforts, service, scholarship, and teaching. Leaders in the School of Computing will monitor changes in technology and adapt to the needs of our students and the community.

IERB Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Date Reviewed: 2/28/2020

Program Reviewed: BS Information Technology

Contextual Notes: Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program

The BS program is offered in Macon, Cochran, Warner Robins and online. Given the online component of the program, this eliminates any demographic or environmental factors that significantly impact assessment of the program.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
Enrollment	<i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production.</i>	<i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production.</i>	<i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production.</i>		The CPR indicates a viable program in the BS in Information Technology degree. Overall enrollment growth has been positive, although there is some variation from campus to campus served by the University. Although there is no direct evidence of credit hour production in the CPR, the increase in graduation rates suggests healthy growth in credit hour production.
Graduation Trends USG benchmark: Bachelor's Degrees: 10 graduates/year Graduate, Associate's or Certificates: 5 graduates/year <small>Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"</small>	<i>Three year rolling average greatly exceeds USG minimum benchmark for degrees conferred.</i>				The overall growth in graduates over five years is 50%.

IERB Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

Program Strengths of Note:

- There is a significant increase in graduates over five years.
- There are no demographic or environmental barriers affecting growth in this program.
- The growth in the online enrollment is an additional area of strength.

Areas of Concern:

- There is some confusion in the CPR as to whether the five-year growth numbers are supposed to reflect overall growth or annualized growth rates.

Other Comments:

- The program seems healthy and growing.