COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES, MARYLAND’S ISCHOOL

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The University of Maryland College of Information Studies (UMD iSchool) is a leading research and teaching college in the field of information science. Our faculty, staff, and students are expanding the frontiers of how people access and use information and technology in an evolving world — in government, education, business, and more. We offer five academic degree programs and lead cutting-edge research, specializing in library sciences, curation, data analytics and visualization, human-computer interaction, youth experience, computational linguistics, smart cities and connected communities, social computing, cybersecurity and privacy, diversity and inclusion, and the future of work. Located just outside of Washington, D.C., our faculty, staff, and students have unmatched research, internship, and career opportunities.

Academic Programs

Major

- Information Science Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/information-studies/information-science-major/)
- Social Data Science Major (INFO) (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/information-studies/social-data-science-major/)
- Technology and Information Design Major (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/information-studies/technology-info-design-major/)

Minors

- Technology Innovation Leadership Minor (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/information-studies/technology-innovation-leadership-minor/)

Advising

Advisors will help you make informed decisions and feel confident about your plans, which will assist you in meeting your program goals. Your advisor will assist in helping you understand your degree requirements and your options, but you make the decisions, you are in charge of your education!

Advising is mandatory for all new InfoSci students and is available both virtually and in-person. Students have access to an advisor during their remaining time in the program, and are encouraged to complete a senior audit roughly a year out from graduation. This review will ensure students are progressing through the major in a satisfactory manner. We encourage all InfoSci students to schedule regular advising meetings and make sure you are on track to meet your academic and professional goals.

For more information on the program, including courses and policies, please visit the the Advising website (https://ischool.umd.edu/academics/bachelor-of-science-in-information-science-college-park/advising/) for undergraduate student services. For any other inquiries please contact the iSchool Undergraduate Student Services Office at InfoSci@umd.edu.

Opportunities

Undergraduate Research Experiences

Opportunities for undergraduate research experience in the iSchool's research centers become available from time to time. Participation in an on- or off-campus internship, co-op, or other experiential learning opportunity is strongly encouraged. See the Information Science program staff for information on performing research in an iSchool center or lab and contact the Campus Career Services office for assistance in obtaining off-campus positions or experiences.

Internships

Students are strongly encouraged to complete at least one internship during their course of study. The iSchool hosts an internship and networking fair in fall and spring semesters to help students find internship sites. Students should also consult the Career Center (http://www.careercenter.umd.edu) for additional internship opportunities.

The iSchool also offers a summer internship course that allows students to partner critical reflection on professional development with an existing internship opportunity.

Scholarships and Financial Assistance

The Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) administers all types of federal, state and institutional financial assistance programs and, in cooperation with other university offices, participates in the awarding of scholarships to deserving students. For information visit their website (https://financialaid.umd.edu/).

Awards and Recognition

Dean’s Award for an Outstanding iSchool Project

The Dean's Award for an Outstanding iSchool Project will be presented to an iSchool student or a group of students (which includes at least one iSchool student) for an outstanding design or development project completed for an iSchool course. Projects must be nominated by a faculty member(s) and must represent outstanding work that furthers understanding by offering new insights into development or design or displays excellence in applying existing state-of-the-art methods and knowledge.
Laurence B. Heilprin Award
The Laurence B. Heilprin Award will be presented to an iSchool student or a group of students (which includes at least one iSchool student) for an outstanding paper on a topic in library and information science which has been written for an iSchool course. Papers must be nominated by faculty and must represent outstanding work that furthers understanding by offering new insights, incorporating original research, and/or analyzing existing information in new ways.

Dr. Joan Giesecke Best Student Paper on Health Informatics Award
The Dr. Joan Giesecke Best Student Paper on Health Informatics Award will be presented to a graduate student or a group of graduate students for an outstanding paper which has been written for an iSchool course and which focuses on any aspect(s) of Health Informatics. The iSchool defines Health Informatics broadly, including any work that focuses on health information management; health information technologies; health data analytics; health-related information needs or behaviors; health librarianship, etc. Papers must be nominated by faculty and must represent outstanding work that furthers understanding by offering new insights on issues relating to Health Informatics, incorporating original research, and/or analyzing existing information in new ways.

Dean’s Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Achievement
The Dean’s Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Achievement will be presented to an undergraduate student or a group of undergraduate students for an outstanding research paper or project that has been completed for an iSchool course. Projects/papers must be nominated by a faculty member(s) and must represent outstanding work that furthers understanding by offering new insights into development or design or displays excellence in applying existing state-of-the-art methods and knowledge.

Special Advantages and Facilities
At the iSchool, faculty and students are exploring how people access and use information. From developing smart city technology to creating new archival methods, we seek to improve the individual experience as well as to foster connected communities. At our research centers and labs, we enable discovery, creativity, problem solving, and fun while tackling real-world challenges and developing impactful solutions.

The college operates six research centers: the Center for Advanced Study of Communities and Information (Casci), the Computational Linguistics and Information Processing Lab (Clip), the Digital Curation Innovation Center (Dcic), the Human-Computer Interaction Lab (Hcil), the Information Policy and Access Center (Ipac), the Trace Research and Development Center.

iSchool faculty and doctoral students also participate in or have affiliations with the university of Maryland institute for Advanced Computer Studies (Umias), and the Maryland Institute for Technology in the humanities (Mith) as well as the Departments of Computer Science, English, and Sociology, the Robert H. Smith School of Business, and the College of Education.

Research Units
The iSchool is home to a number of research centers and labs:
the iSchool and UMIACS, and has multiple labs, faculty, and students associated with it.

**The Information Policy and Access Center (IPAC)**  
ipac.umd.edu (http://ipac.umd.edu)

**Co-Directors:** Dr. John Bertot, Dr. Paul Jaeger, Dr. Mega Subramaniam

The Information Policy & Access Center (iPAC) is a response to the pressing need for research on the processes, practices, policies, and social issues that govern access to information in our increasingly digital information society. We at iPAC are committed to studying what policies and/or technologies lead to equitable and inclusive information access, a digitally-ready population, an informed and engaged public, access to Internet-enabled resources and technologies, or preservation of the cultural record, among key examples.

**Trace Research and Development Center**  
Room 2117 Hornbake Bldg, South Wing, College Park  
Phone: 301-405-2043  
trace-info@umd.edu  
trace.umd.edu (http://trace.umd.edu/)

**Director:** Dr. Jonathan Lazar

The Trace Center's purpose is to apply engineering, computer science, disability studies, public policy, and information science to prevent the barriers to, and capitalize on the opportunities presented by, current and emerging information and communication technologies. Our vision is of a world that is accessible and usable by people of all ages and all abilities — each experiencing ICT in a way they can understand and use. Founded in 1971, Trace has been a pioneer known for high-impact research and development, including access features implemented in computer operating systems, leadership in development of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and many other accessibility standards, and techniques used to increase the accessibility of self-service kiosks in post offices, train stations, and airports. Trace is currently a leader in the development and large-scale deployment of a Global Public Inclusive Infrastructure that combines cloud computing, web, and platform services to make online information and services available for people facing accessibility barriers.

**Social Data Science Center (SoDa)**  
socialdatascience.umd.edu (https://socialdatascience.umd.edu)

**Co-Directors:** Dr. Brian Butler and Professor Frauke Kreuter

The Social Data Science Center (SoDa) — a Center established by the College of Information Studies and the Joint Program in Survey Methodology (JPSM) within the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences — is an inter-disciplinary academic and research center. SoDa plans to sponsor seminars, workshops and focused conferences designed to bring attention to the rapidly expanding universe of digitized data and new forms of behavioral data, as well as developments in data science that can benefit investigators in the social sciences.