COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION

University at Albany

INF Ph.D. Manual 2008-2009

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All information in this manual is subject to change, please contact the Department of Informatics for

updated information.

University at Albany

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Chapter 1

Welcome to the Information Science Ph.D. Program

The University at Albany's doctoral program in Information Science is a unique interdisciplinary research program in which faculty and students study a wide variety of disciplines related to information and its use by individuals and organizations. Our research community includes approximately fifty faculty and forty doctoral students engaged in a wide range of activities aimed at understanding the impact that information technologies and policy have on today's society, and at building an effective information infrastructure for tomorrow's world.

Our program is unique in several respects. In today's information-intensive world, it is not enough just to understand technology in order to build effective information systems. Our curriculum emphasizes a multidisciplinary perspective to approaching problems. This emphasis begins with five core courses that are typically team-taught by faculty from different disciplines across the campus. It continues throughout the curriculum, with an emphasis on early and active multidisciplinary research.

This focus on applied research helps prepare students for both academic and professional careers, as evidenced by the number of its graduates who are researchers in policy and management positions in government, consulting, education, and industry--careers that benefit from the research perspective that our doctoral program offers.

The prominence of applied interdisciplinary work is reflected in the diversity of the faculty members and research centers that participate in the program. Each program faculty member is also a member of one of the University's traditional academic and research units, or is a scholar-practitioner working in the government or the corporate sector, committed to interdisciplinary research through participation in the program. This cadre of dedicated faculty has helped create an exciting environment in which to study, explore, and create.

This Ph.D. manual can be found on the INF web site at www.albany.edu/cci/informatics. However, the definitive document for university policies and procedures is the University at Albany *Graduate Bulletin*, which can be found at www.albany.edu/grad/.

Admission Requirements

Applicants to the INF Ph.D. Program must satisfy the general University requirements for admission to doctoral study described in the *Graduate Bulletin* at www.albany.edu/grad/. Admission to this program is highly selective and is based on an assessment of the applicant's potential to make a major contribution to theory and practice in Information Science.

New doctoral students are typically admitted only for the fall semester. Candidates should have a substantial background of previous academic work, preferably at the graduate level, in a discipline concerned with perception, evaluation and manipulation of information, and should possess appropriate analytic skills.

Academic preparation should include college-level mathematics, inferential statistics, research methodologies, fundamentals of the policy-making process, and organizational theory and behavior, as well as computer and information literacy. International applicants are usually expected to hold a degree from a U.S. university.

The doctoral Admissions Committee seeks evidence of motivation, energy and commitment to the discipline, academic achievement sufficient to promise success at the doctoral level, strong oral and written communication skills, and an adequate level of technical ability.

While the program is open to those who hold the baccalaureate degree, preference is given to candidates who have completed a master's degree in information science, computer science, communication, geography and planning, public administration, business, management information systems, information management, accounting, criminal justice, library science, or a related field.

Applicants must submit official transcripts for all prior undergraduate and graduate coursework and scores from the General Test of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT), or the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT). Applicants whose native language is not English must also submit scores on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) examination. Three letters of recommendation are required, at least one of which should speak to the candidate's academic abilities. For candidates with substantial work experience in the information field, one or more letters from current or former supervisors or co-workers are appropriate.

Candidates are encouraged to submit additional documentation, such as a curriculum vitae, a portfolio of previous work, publications, reports, research papers, or examples of such work as computer systems, programs or other

materials that might be helpful to the Admissions Committee in assessing capacity for doctoral study and independent research.

Admission Timetable

Application for doctoral admission must be received by **January 15**. In addition to coordinating the review and decision-making process for each applicant, services are available at the Office of Graduate Admissions to assist students who desire clarification or more detailed information about programs and admission standards. Individual discussions with faculty from any of the program's schools can also be arranged.

Information concerning admissions policies and processes can be found at the University's Office of Graduate Admissions. For further information or an application packet, please contact:

Office of Graduate Admissions
The University at Albany
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
Phone: 800-440-GRAD or 518-442-5200
Email: graduate@uamail.albany.edu

Graduate Assistantships and Financial Aid

To help defray the costs of higher education, the doctoral program offers a limited number of assistantships to graduate students. Assistantships carrying stipends plus a full or partial tuition scholarship are awarded to qualified students who perform teaching, research, or administrative duties, up to a maximum of three years of University support.

University-wide scholarships are also available. More information may be obtained from the Office of Graduate Admissions.

Financial assistance may also be provided from external grants and contracts received each year by the Program faculty and staff. This type of funding is generally associated with a significant research project or training program.

To be considered for financial assistance students must apply for financial assistance and the other awards (assistantships, fellowships, and scholarships) when applying for admission.

Financial aid other than assistantships and fellowships is available through state and federal programs. Information on these programs may be obtained from the Office of Graduate Admissions or on their web site at www.albany.edu/graduate/.

Chapter 2

The INF Ph.D. Program

The interdisciplinary doctoral program is designed for people who are interested in advanced study and applied research in the nature of information as a phenomenon, and in the character of the information transfer process, including the creation of new knowledge, the utilization of what is known, and the dissemination of knowledge in both conventional and electronic formats. Emphasizing research, teaching, and the application of research findings to professional practice, the program is built on the model of the scientist-practitioner. It prepares graduates for both academic and research careers in information science or related disciplines and for higher-level management and policy positions in private and public sector organizations.

Information science draws upon and integrates theory and application from several diverse disciplines. At Albany, the INF Ph.D. Program is a collaborative activity of the School of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Computing and Information, the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, the School of Education, and research faculty from several disciplines and centers across the University.

Program of Study

The INF Ph.D. Program consists of five major components: (1) Core interdisciplinary courses, (2) Research sequence, (3) Technology competencies, (4) Primary and secondary specialization areas, and (5) Doctoral dissertation.

The university requires a minimum of 60 credits beyond the baccalaureate, plus at least one additional year devoted to researching and writing a dissertation. Applicants who have completed graduate courses or programs may be admitted with advanced standing and be allowed a maximum of thirty credits for courses applicable to the Ph.D.

Courses and research requirements are designed to provide the successful candidate with a firm grounding in the social and technical impacts of information creation, use, dissemination and storage. Development of an

appreciation and understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of information research is also emphasized.

Each student will develop an individualized program of study to meet these requirements under the advisement of the Program Director and the student's Program Guidance Committee.

Program Director

The Program Director administers program policies, oversees student progress, and manages the academic program. The Program Director also serves as the Faculty representative for many activities.

First Year Advisor

The First Year Advisor serves as the academic advisor to all new doctoral students until the Program Guidance Committee Chair is selected, which should occur during the two initial semesters.

Program Guidance Committee

Each doctoral student is advised regarding his or her academic program by a Program Guidance Committee. The student forms this committee during the first year of study. The Program Guidance Committee represents the Program Faculty in overseeing the content of the student's program and in monitoring the student's progress up to the point of admission to degree candidacy. The Program Guidance Committee is responsible through its Chair for:

- reviewing and approving the student's proposed program plan;
- assessing the quality and content of the student's prior academic preparation;
- advising the student of appropriate courses to correct any academic deficiencies and to fulfill requirements;
- supporting the proposed primary and secondary specializations;
- overseeing the qualifying requirements;
- monitoring the student's academic progress;
- certifying the student for admission to degree candidacy upon satisfactory completion of all pre-dissertation requirements.

Composition

The student's Program Guidance Committee consists of at least three faculty members, two of whom must be members of the Ph.D. Program Faculty. The Program Guidance Committee must include representatives of at least two of the departments or schools that cosponsor the INF Ph.D. program. The Program Guidance Committee must also include faculty members associated with both the student's primary and secondary areas of specialization.

Timing of Appointment

Full-time and part-time students must form their Program Guidance Committee and the Committee must approve their proposed Program Plan by the end of their second semester.

Continuing Advisement and Review

Members of the student's Program Guidance Committee are available to provide advice and guidance up to the point of the student's admission to degree candidacy when advisement becomes the responsibility of the Dissertation Committee. Members of a student's Program Guidance Committee may, at the student's option, also be invited to serve as members of his or her Dissertation Committee. The Program Guidance Committee conducts a review of the student's progress at least annually and advises the Program Faculty on the student's progress toward the degree. The Program Guidance Committee may require the student to revise or modify his or her academic Program Plan at any time prior to admission to degree candidacy. Student may propose changes to their program plan at any time, subject to the approval of the Program Guidance Committee. All amended Program Plans must be approved by the Program Director. Signed Program Plans must be filed with the Informatics Office in a timely manner.

Academic Standards

Doctoral students must earn an average of B or better in all resident graduate courses and credits applicable to their degree, and remain in good academic standing during the course of their study.

Advanced Standing

Students who have completed graduate courses or programs elsewhere may apply for admission with advanced standing and be allowed a maximum of thirty credits for courses applicable to a doctorate. This maximum also applies to previously completed graduate programs at University at Albany. There is an Application for Advanced Standing form that must be completed and submitted with transcripts. Granting of advanced standing is also governed by the Graduate Office regulations regarding transfer of credit: *Regulations Governing the Transfer of Credit to a Graduate Program* (http://www.albany.edu/grad/requirements_general_admissions.shtml#regis tration).

Apprentice Teaching Option

The INF Ph.D. Program offers an apprentice teaching option for students interested in teaching an undergraduate course. The sequence is as follows:

- Student: successfully take or waive IINF 523 Fundamentals of Information Technology
- Apprentice Teacher: normally fulfilled by being a teaching assistant under direct guidance and supervision of a master teacher for an undergraduate course
- Journeyman Teacher: typically fulfilled by being an instructor for an undergraduate course with own section under the guidance and supervision of a master teacher.

Teaching experience may be obtained also by teaching assistantships in programs related to the student's interests.

Continuous Registration of Doctoral Students

All students enrolled in doctoral programs must maintain continuous registration for each fall and spring session (except for periods of official leave of absence prior to candidacy) until they have completed all program requirements. Minimum registration consists of 3 credits of approved course work, registration for dissertation load (899 courses only), or registration for other fieldwork courses that have been approved as full-time by the Dean of Graduate Studies or the Graduate Academic Council.

Summer session registration cannot be accepted in lieu of registration for fall and spring sessions. A student who neither registers for each fall and spring session nor has received an official leave of absence is subject to termination unless good cause not to do so is shown by the student after notification of such pending action. [From Graduate Catalog]

Doctoral students in full-time study register for 12 or more credits each fall and spring semester. Students who hold a full assistantship are expected to be enrolled in 9 credits, or be registered for one dissertation load credit after being admitted to candidacy. Summer session registration cannot be accepted in lieu of registration for fall and spring sessions.

Statute of Limitations

University regulations state:

1. The required full-time study in residence must be completed within four calendar years from the date of initial registration in the program in the fall, three and one-half years from the date of initial registration in the program in the spring.
2. All requirements for a doctoral degree must be completed within eight calendar years from the date of initial registration in the program.
3. These statutes apply equally to students who enter with or without advanced standing and to students who formally change their areas of specialization after admission and study in one advanced program.

Leave of Absence

Doctoral students are eligible to apply for a leave of absence prior to reaching doctoral candidacy and/or registering for dissertation credits. A leave of up to one year may be proposed for an appropriate academic or personal reason and is subject to approval by the Program Guidance Committee Chair, Program Director, and Graduate Office. The period of authorized leave of absence is not counted as part of the statute of limitations for completion of degree requirements. Students who are on leave of absence are not entitled to use University facilities.

Students must request either to withdraw from the program or request a leave of absence within one semester of failing to register for classes toward the INF Ph.D.

Requirements for Admission to Candidacy

Students apply for admission to degree candidacy after successful completion of all prerequisites and core courses with at least a B average, primary and secondary specialization requirements, literature review requirement, comprehensive examination, and residency requirement. Admission to degree candidacy occurs only with the approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies acting on recommendations of the Graduate Academic Council, the Program Director and Program faculty. Only upon admission to candidacy can a student register for doctoral dissertation load credit (IINF 899). The requirements for admission to candidacy are listed below. Numbering below corresponds to the arrangement on the Admission to Candidacy form.

1. Completion of an Approved Program of Study

In consultation with the Program Guidance Committee Chair, the student files an official Program Plan of Study to outline the planned course of study for the degree. The Program Plan must be completed and signed by the student, the Program Guidance Committee, the Assistant Dean of Informatics, and the Ph.D. Program Director. Students return the completed and signed form to the Department of Informatics office. Course changes to the approved Program Plan may be requested by submitting an amendment. The Program Plan includes:

- Tentative dates for completion of core courses, courses in support of primary and secondary specializations, the comprehensive examination, literature review, and peer-reviewed publication or conference presentation for the primary specialization. Students should include a plan and schedule for fulfilling the full-time residency requirement of two regular semesters (see 2. Completion of Full-Time Study in Residence). See appendix for a sample program plan.

- Courses and/or waiver for meeting technology competencies prerequisite (see 4. Demonstration of Technology Competencies).
- Apprentice teaching option schedule. (This is not a requirement.)
- Tentative dates for completion of research sequence components (see 6. Completion of the Research Sequence).
- Lists of graduate courses completed prior to matriculation (see Advanced Standing) and graduate courses to be completed while in the Program in support of the proposed primary and secondary specializations. Alternate courses should be specified in the event that first choice courses are not available.
- Coursework previously completed (see Advanced Standing), coursework to be completed, or other experience that the student proposes to take.
- Tentative area or topic for dissertation research.

2. Completion of Full-Time Study in Residence

Each student in a doctoral program must engage in full-time study beyond the master's degree or equivalent at the University in at least two semesters after admission to the program. This requirement is designed to insure for each doctoral student a sustained period of intensive intellectual growth. For this purpose, a student will enroll in full-time study taken in each of two academic-year semesters (24 credits total), or in an academic-year semester (12 credits) and a summer session (9 credits), not necessarily consecutive, which must be completed satisfactorily.

Graduate assistants holding a full assistantship may meet the residency requirement by completing one academic year in such a position, including the satisfactory completion of a minimum of 9 registered credits each semester plus satisfactory completion of assigned duties.

3. Successful Fulfillment of All Qualifying Requirements

The INF Ph.D. Program requires each student to meet a series of qualifying requirements by the end of the second semester. The qualifying requirements include:

- a formal review of academic achievement during the first two semesters by the student's Program Guidance Committee Chair, concentrating on both the quality of performance in classes and the timeliness of this performance,
- a formal agreement (Program Plan of Study form) about the scope and content of the student's proposed academic program, including the student's primary and secondary areas of specialization, submitted at the end of the second semester.

4. Demonstration of Technology Competencies

All INF Ph.D. students are required to show competency in four areas of computer and information technologies: networking, web applications, programming languages and databases. Students are required to take one to four eight-week modules of IINF 523 Fundamentals of Information Technology to meet this requirement. There are options to waive out of this requirement. (See Ways to Meet the IINF 523 Requirement).

5. Successful Completion of All Core Course Work

The five core courses are designed to introduce students to the process of scholarly investigation, as well as to present major research themes, issues, and methods of analysis that are most pertinent to the field of information science. Teams of two or three faculty members from different departments conduct the classes, ensuring a multidisciplinary perspective. In some cases, guest lecturers or other means are used to provide alternative views on a subject. Successful completion of all core courses is required of all INF Ph.D. students. Courses are offered on a set cycle and students are expected to take the sequence as it is presented. Scheduling of classes is subject to faculty and room availability.

The objectives of the courses are to:

- Enable doctoral students to achieve the scope and level of mastery of information science and of relevant portions of the supporting disciplines.
- Introduce doctoral students to the seminal literature, principal research themes, major researchers and major research centers in Information Science.
- Introduce doctoral students to the process of scholarly investigation in information science in its interdisciplinary dimensions, facilitating their progress toward independent research for the dissertation.

Collectively, the five core courses give an introduction to information science, helping the student's transition from an operations orientation to an applied research orientation, from the practitioner role to the scholar-practitioner role. The core courses also provide the substance for the general comprehensive exam.

The five required courses, which constitute the "five core courses" and provide an interdisciplinary unifying foundation for subsequent graduate study, are:

IINF 720 Managing Information and Technology in Organizations (2 credits)

This course will introduce information systems research paradigms grounded in organization theory and provide a framework for applying theoretical concepts and empirical tools to the management of information and technology in organizations.

IINF 721 Information and Society (2 credits)

Relationships between information and communication technologies (ICTs) and social action; how social and organizational factors influence information processes and systems; and how the use of ICTs influences our (changing) understanding and experience of dealing with information.

IINF 722 Information Organization (2 credits)

Text analysis for information extraction, organization of information for knowledge sharing, and visualization of information to support users' diverse cognitive styles.

IINF 723 Information and Computing (2 credits)

Development of theories and concepts that underlie the operation of information processing and retrieval systems, consequences derived from these theories that should be considered in designing such systems, theoretical foundations of information and computation, technologies and application areas.

IINF 724 Information Policy (2 credits)

National and international information policy development trends, processes, and conflicts; policy, law, and culture; information economics, industries, and trade; policies of information commodities (e.g., intellectual property, privacy).

6. Completion of the Research Sequence

The research sequence is intended to expose INF Ph.D. students to core information science research through becoming familiar with information science literature, developing a research plan, actively participating in research with faculty member(s), presenting research through poster session(s) and presentation(s), and developing research method and analysis skills. It consists of four major components:

1. four one-credit Research Seminar Sequence courses;
2. attendance at and participation in the Annual INF Research Conference;
3. IINF 710 Research Design in Information Science course; and
4. an Additional Research Tool Requirement.

Successful completion of all research sequence courses and requirements is required of all INF Ph.D. students. Scheduling of classes is subject to faculty and room availability.

Research Seminar Sequence

A four-semester sequence of 1-credit research seminars (INF 711, INF 712, INF 713, and INF 714) will facilitate an understanding of information science literature and research, and development of students' research agendas. Taken for the first four semesters in sequence, students will interact with faculty while learning about their current research; begin to use and evaluate information science literature; learn research techniques, such as writing a literature review, maintaining a bibliographic database, presenting a poster session and presenting current research at a conference; and develop research relationships with faculty and other students.

Annual INF Research Conference

All INF Ph.D. students are required to attend the annual INF Research Conference: New Trends in Informatics Research. First year students plan and coordinate the conference, while also presenting at the poster session. Second year students present their current research potentially with a faculty member. Third year and later students are encouraged to present their current research. This INF Research Conference develops a research community while offering opportunities for students to learn about research being done by other faculty and students in Informatics, and to hone their own research and presentation skills.

IINF 710 Research Design in Information Science

All INF Ph.D. students are required to take the 4-credit INF 710 research methods course. Students will examine research issues in information science at an advanced level, focusing on appropriate research design, data gathering techniques and analysis relating to data collection and measurement. Students will explore the research design process from both qualitative and quantitative points of view. (Please note that PAD 704 is a substitute for this requirement.)

Additional Research Tool Requirement

University regulations state that all students must take at least one statistics/analysis course at the doctoral level. Students should work with their Program Guidance Committee Chair to find the best fit. This course may be chosen from those offered throughout the university, selected to be specific to their field of concentration. Although the requirement is for a quantitative course, students are strongly urged to take additional quantitative and qualitative courses to round out their research analysis skills. (See Courses in Research Design, Data Collection and Data Analysis

(not in INF) for a list of possible courses. Please note, however, that not all of these classes fulfill the University Research Tool Requirement and they are not all available to INF Ph.D. students every semester. You should consult your Program Guidance Committee Chair, the Program Director, and the faculty member teaching the class for additional details.)

7. Successful Completion of Primary Specialization Course Work

Primary specializations are listed below in the Specializations section of this manual. Normally, each primary specialization requires a minimum of 18 credits made up of required and elective courses. Students should work with their Program Guidance Committee and the faculty within specific specializations to clarify the necessary course work. Additional requirements may be part of individual specializations. (See 11. Acceptance of the Primary Specialization Publishable Paper for formal evaluation criteria.)

8. Successful Completion of Secondary Specialization Course Work

The secondary specialization is intended to broaden the student's knowledge of information science and to provide additional research experience. Secondary specializations are normally attained by taking three of the required and/or elective courses within the specialization descriptions. Students should work with their Program Guidance Committee and the faculty within specific specializations to clarify the necessary course work. There is no formal evaluation of the secondary specialization. Students must successfully complete at least three courses in their secondary specialization. There is a Fulfillment of Secondary Specialization form that must be signed by the Program Guidance Committee member who represents the secondary specialization.

It is possible for students to create a self-designed secondary specialization with approval of the INF Ph.D. faculty. The INF Ph.D. Program Director cannot give approval without approval of the faculty. It is essential that the students can demonstrate

1. that they have support from a faculty mentor who will present the proposal to the faculty as a whole,
2. that there is faculty expertise in their proposed area on campus, and
3. that their proposal specialization complements their overall program plan and works within the information science field.

9. Passing the General Comprehensive Examination

The general comprehensive exam will be administered after the five core courses are successfully completed. An incomplete in any core course will prevent the student from being able to take the comprehensive exam. The

typical exam is a take-home that consists of one question selected from a set prepared in advance by the faculty. Evaluation is done by the INF Ph.D. Program faculty.

10. Acceptance of the Literature Review

The literature review is a bibliographic essay organized around a current topic in information science and supported by a bibliographic search of citations around the selected topic. Typically the approved literature review is part of a large project such as an independent piece of research with a faculty member, a paper leading to publication in a peer-reviewed journal, a research proposal being submitted to a board or a national foundation, or other significant independent research. Evaluation is done by two INF Ph.D. faculty members selected by the student, and approved by the student's Program Guidance Committee Chair. The Program Guidance Committee Chair cannot evaluate the literature review. It is expected that the student complete the Literature Review requirement near the end of the fourth semester.

11. Acceptance of the Primary Specialization Publishable Paper

Normally, each primary specialization requires one paper of publishable quality. To meet the publication requirement students must get the approval of their Program Guidance Committee for:

- a paper published (single or joint authorship) in a peer-reviewed journal, or
- a paper accepted for presentation and publication in a peer-reviewed conference (note that this must be a paper and not an abstract), or
- a research paper submitted to the specialization committee chair for review by a designated committee of faculty within that specialization. This is not the preferred method of meeting this requirement but will allow for papers that are of high scholarly merit that do not meet publication guidelines (such as small sample size).

Students should confer with their Program Guidance Committee and the faculty committee representing a particular specialization on any additional evaluation materials required.

Doctoral Dissertation

The completion of a dissertation is expected to demonstrate that the candidate is capable of doing independent scholarly work and is able to formulate conclusions which may in some respects modify or enlarge what has previously been known.

Detailed guidelines and procedures governing the Ph.D. dissertation at the University at Albany are contained in a publication called "General Regulations Governing the Submission of a Dissertation in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for a Doctoral Degree." Each student entering the dissertation process should obtain a copy from the Office of Graduate Studies: http://www.albany.edu/gradstudies/degreecomp/d2.shtml.

Any dissertation that involves human or animal subjects must be approved by the University's Institutional Review Board. Copies of University guidelines for such approval are available from the Office of Research Compliance web site at www.albany.edu/research/compliance/Forms.htm.

The doctoral dissertation is subject to the general regulations outlined in the current Graduate Bulletin of the University

Dissertations that have been approved must be transmitted to the Dean of Graduate Studies by May 1 for degrees to be conferred in May, by August 1 for degrees to be conferred in August, and by December 1 for degrees to be conferred in December. Proposal and dissertation defenses must occur on campus during the fall or spring semesters. Students must apply for graduation in the semester in which they expect to graduate.

Dissertation Committee

Students should begin identifying their dissertation committee early in their program. This process can begin with discussions with Program Guidance Committee members. The first formal step that the student must take in the dissertation process is to form a Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee advises and guides the student in throughout the process of dissertation planning and completion. The Dissertation Committee assesses the acceptability of dissertation proposals and dissertation drafts presented by the student. It is the student's responsibility to keep the Dissertation Committee Chair informed of all progress.

The Dissertation Committee must consist of at least three members, least two of which are members of the Ph.D. Program faculty. In addition, the University faculty members of the Committee must be from at least two different schools, departments, or disciplines. The Dissertation Committee Chair must be a University faculty member. All dissertation committee members must either have a Ph.D. or hold a full professorship. The Dissertation Committee is nominated by the student and appointed by the Ph.D. Program Director. Students should complete the Dissertation Committee Composition form to formalize this process.

Dissertation Proposal

The presentation and defense of a dissertation proposal is required as part of completing a dissertation. The written proposal should detail the research methods and techniques to be used in conducting the dissertation topic. It also should address the relevance of the dissertation topic to the field of information science, describe the conceptual and research content in which the proposed study is located, specify the originality or uniqueness of the proposal, and review, in bibliographic form, the research and other literature relevant to the topic. When the committee determines that the proposal is ready for defense, the dissertation chair will schedule the defense, which includes arranging for the date and location. At least two weeks prior to the proposal defense, the candidate must deliver a paper or electronic (pdf) copy of the proposal to the Informatics Office. Informatics Department staff will announce the defense date and venue to the Ph.D. Program faculty and students. If a defense must be rescheduled, there must also be a two-week announcement period. Proposal defenses are scheduled only while fall and spring semester classes are in session. All INF Ph.D. Program faculty are eligible to vote at proposal defenses. After successful defense of the dissertation proposal, the Approval of Dissertation Proposal form must be completed.

Degree Application

A student nearing completion of the dissertation must file a Recommendation for the Conferral of the Doctoral Degree form with the Office of Graduate Studies and the Registrar during the session in which the degree is expected. Degree applications are filed online through the MyUAlbany web portal and must be filed before the deadline established for each graduation conferral either May, August, or December of each year (see the University calendar for the session in question). If a degree is not awarded, a new application must be filed during registration for the session in which the degree award is expected.

Dissertation Defense

The dissertation is the culmination of the program of advanced study leading to a doctoral degree. It is expected that the dissertation is written in an accepted scholarly style, investigates a problem of significance, and makes a unique contribution to the field of study. It must demonstrate independent research and analysis, scholarly reporting, and a high degree of scholarly competence. The dissertation defense cannot take place in the same semester as the dissertation proposal defense. Dissertation defenses are not normally allowed during the summer.

The doctoral candidate is responsible for scheduling the defense with his or her Dissertation Committee, which includes arranging for the date and

location of the defense. At least two weeks prior to the defense, the candidate must submit a paper or electronic (pdf) copy of the dissertation to the Informatics Department office. Informatics Department staff will announce the defense date and venue to the Ph.D. Program faculty and students. If a defense must be rescheduled, there must be a two-week announcement period. Proposal defenses are scheduled only while fall and spring semester classes are in session. Only the dissertation committee faculty are eligible to vote at dissertation defenses.

After the defense and any necessary revisions are complete, the Dissertation Chair informs the Informatics Department office that the dissertation has been successfully completed. The successful candidate should complete and submit the Dissertation Approval form and the Recommendation for the Conferral of the Doctoral Degree form. Additional University at Albany requirements regarding the publication of the dissertation are available in the Graduate Bulletin and on the Office of Graduate Studies web site at www.albany.edu/graduate/.

Specializations

Students must complete two individualized sequences of courses, practica, and supervised research in a primary and secondary area of advanced specialization. Currently approved areas of advanced specialization are Business Information and Decision Systems (BIDS), Decision and Policy Sciences (DAPS), Geographic Information Science (GIS), Information Assurance (IA), Information, Government, and Democratic Society (IGDS), Information in Organizational Environments (IOE), Information Technology and Learning (ITL), and Knowledge Organization and Management (KOM). Opportunities for self-designed specializations are described below.

The primary specialization is pursued in greater depth and is ordinarily related to the proposed area of dissertation research. The secondary specialization is intended to broaden the student's knowledge and to provide additional research experience.

Students should work with their Program Guidance Committee in selecting a set of specialization courses and other experiences. The courses listed below are intended to be illustrative rather than exhaustive or required.

Business Information and Decision Systems (BIDS)

This specialization may not be offered. Please contact the Assistant Dean of Informatics at infinfo@albany.edu.

Decision and Policy Sciences (DAPS)

The Decision and Policy Sciences field is concerned with the appropriate use of information, and quantitative and substantive analyses to support

judgment and decision making on issues of importance to policy, administration, and management. Methods emphasized within the field include multivariate statistics, judgment and decision analysis, systems modeling, evaluation, operations research, and economic analysis. Students electing this specialization are expected to gain familiarity with these methods and to develop special competence in some of them. Proficiency in related research methodology and computer applications is also required. Students concentrate on one of two tracks: (1) Modeling and Simulation, or (2) Judgment and Decision Making.

Faculty:
David Andersen, Rockefeller College
Senem Guney, College of Computing and Information
Terry Maxwell, College of Computing and Information
Eliot Rich, School of Business
George Richardson, Rockefeller College
Sandor Schuman, Center for Policy Research

Primary Specialization

Specialization Courses (2 of the following 3 core courses are required/8 credits):

RPAD 620 Normative Decision Making (4 credits)
RPAD 624 Simulating Dynamic Systems (4 credits)
RPAD 634 Judgment & Decision Making Behavior (4 credits)

Specialization Track Course (1 required/4 credit):

TRACK 1 - Judgment and Decision Making: In addition to the required core courses in the Decision and Policy Sciences specialization, the Judgment and Decision Making track consists of one additional required course plus three electives as described below.

RPAD 734 Seminar on Judgment & Decision Making Behavior (4 credits)

TRACK 2 - Modeling and Simulation: In addition to the required core courses in the Decision and Policy Sciences specialization, the Modeling and Simulation track consists of one additional required course plus three electives as described below.

RPAD 724 Simulation for Policy Analysis & Design (3-6 credits)

Elective Courses (3 required for either track/12 credits):

IINF 659 Technology and Contemporary Organizational Life (3 credits)
RPUB 514 Economics for Public Affairs II (4 credits)

RPAD 615 Strategic Planning and Management (4 credits)
RPAD 636 Cultural Analysis in Organizations (4 credits)
RPAD 524 Strategic & Systems Thinking (4 credits)
RPAD 637 Social & Organizational Networks (4 credits)
RPAD 615 Strategic Planning (4 credits)
RPAD 724 Simulation for Policy Analysis & Design (3-6 credits)
RPAD 627 Cost Benefit Analysis (4 credits)
RPAD 734 Seminar in Judgment & Decision Making Behavior (4 credits)
RPAD 632 Group Dynamics in Organizations (4 credits)
RPAD 824 Advanced Topics in System Dynamics (1-6 credits)
RPAD 633 Organizational Analysis & Development (4 credits)
RPAD 834 Proseminar on Judgment & Decision Making (4 credits)

Secondary Specialization

The DAPS secondary specialization consists of three or more courses selected
with the consent of an advisor from the DAPS field. Normally, these courses
are to be selected from the list of specialization requirements including:

RPAD 620 Normative Decision Making (4 credits)
RPAD 624 Simulating Dynamic Systems (4 credits)
RPAD 634 Judgment & Decision Making Behavior (4 credits)
RPAD 637 Social & Organizational Networks (4 credits)
RPAD 724 Simulation for Policy Analysis & Design (3-6 credits)
RPAD 734 Seminar in Judgment & Decision Making Behavior (4 credits)

Geographic Information Science (GIS)

Geographic Information Science encompasses the predominant tools for
performing spatial analysis and for augmenting spatial decision making
across a broad array of application domains. Practitioners representing fields
as diverse as criminal justice, atmospheric science, sociology, public health,
and many others require a common theoretical underpinning in the
fundamental models and methods of analysis embodied in current systems.
To that end, the specialization in Geographic Information Science focuses on
the theoretical foundation of spatial data representation, analysis, and
visualization as well as on its broad spectrum of applications. The
specialization directly supports interests in the geosciences and social
sciences, as well as in the theory and implementation of geographic
information system design.

Faculty:

Monika P. Calef, College of Arts and Sciences
Kate Lawson, College of Arts and Sciences
James Mower, College of Arts and Sciences

Primary Specialization

Specialization Courses (9 credits):

AGOG 500 Development of Geographic Thought (3 credits)
AGOG 596 (APLN 556) Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3 credits)
AGOG 692 (APLN 656) Seminar in Geographic Information Systems (3 credits)

Elective Courses (at least 12 credits):

AGOG 502 (APLN 504) Statistical Methods in Geography (3 credits)
AGOG 555 (APLN 503) Computer Applications (3 credits)
AGOG 579 Principles of Applied Global Positioning Systems (3 credits)
AGOG 584 Graduate Introduction to Remote Sensing (2 credits)
AGOG 585 Digital Image Analysis (3 credits)
AGOG 590 Advanced Cartography (3 credits)
AGOG 598 (APLN 558) GIS Management (3 credits)
AGOG 680 Seminar in Geography (3 credits)
AGOG 695 Graduate Internship in Geography (3 credits)
AGOG 697 Independent Study in Geography (1-4 credits)
APLN 544 Urban and Metropolitan Transportation Planning (3 credits)
RCRJ 693 GIS in Criminal Justice (4 credits)
RCRJ 696 GIS in Criminal Justice (4 credits)

Secondary Specialization

The GIS secondary specialization consists of the following three courses with the consent of an advisor from the GIS field:

AGOG 500 Development of Geographic Thought (3 credits)
AGOG 596 (APLN 556) Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (3 credits)
AGOG 692 (APLN 656) Seminar in Geographic Information Systems (3 credits)

Information Assurance (IA)

Information is the most critical asset of most organizations. Information Assurance deals with the study of information from the point of view of confidentiality, integrity, and availability. Information Assurance is an interdisciplinary field involving diverse areas including computer science, business, accounting, finance, criminal justice, mathematics, engineering, psychology, criminal justice, sociology, and public policy. Some of the research topics of interest to the Information Assurance faculty at Albany include intrusion detection, computer crime, cryptography, steganography, security risk analysis, security policies, specification/verification, and security auditing. The students can take a diverse set of courses to prepare them for research in the field of Information Assurance and they need to get

appropriate training through their course work to help them in their research. The program allows for a large number of electives for the students to choose in consultation with their academic advisor. The program also specifies certain background courses which are necessary to educate the students for research in information assurance. The requirement for IA as a primary specialization is 21 credits. If the students can waive some of the back ground courses they should take additional courses from the IA electives specified below to complete 21 credits in the specialization.

Faculty:

George Berg, College of Computing and Information
Peter Bloniarz, College of Computing and Information
Ingrid Fisher, School of Business
Jagdish Gangolly, College of Computing and Information
Sanjay Goel, School of Business
Kate Lawson, College of Arts and Sciences
Neil Murray, College of Computing and Information

Primary Specialization

Specialization Courses (21 credits):
Information assurance is an interdisciplinary field enriched by the interaction of fields such as computer science, business, information technology, accounting, criminal justice, public administration, education, sociology, and psychology. The Information Assurance specialization provides the students considerable freedom in selecting courses. There are four cognate areas that are necessary for students to undertake the Information Assurance specialization, viz., Information Systems, Networks, Databases, and Statistics. The students are required to take one 3 (or 4) credit graduate level course in each of these four areas. In addition, to fulfill the requirements for the primary specialization, in consultation with their advisor, students are required to take three graduate elective courses from a list of courses listed further below. The background courses can be waived if they demonstrate equivalent knowledge through other equivalent course work. The determination would be made by any IA concentration member and approved by a designated point of contact in the IA concentration.

Background Courses (Each area must be covered)

1)   Information Systems: (3 credits)

BACC 681 Accounting Information Systems (3) **OR**

BITM 601 Business Systems Analysis and Design (3) **OR**

ICSI 518 Software Engineering (4)

2)   Networks: (3 credits)

BITM 604 Communications, Networking & Computer Security (3) **OR**

ICSI 516 Computer Communications Networks I (3)

3)   Databases: (3 credits)

BACC 682 Analysis & Design of Accounting Databases (3) **OR**

ICSI 508 Database Systems I (3) **OR**

Equivalent Graduate Course Work

4) Statistics: (3 credits)

BACC 522Statistical Analysis for Business Decisions (3) **OR**
AMAT 565 Applied Statistics (3) **OR**
ASOC 522 Intermediate Statistics (3) **OR**
ASOC 622 Selected Topics in Multivariate Analysis (3) **OR**
RCRJ 687 Statistical Techniques in Criminal Justice Research II (3) **OR**
RSSW 687 Statistics and Data Analysis II (4) **OR**
EPSY 630 Statistical Methods II (3) **OR**
APSY 511 Statistics and Experimental Methods II (4)

Electives (9 credits):

BACC 661 Auditing of Advanced Accounting Systems (3)
BACC 683 Advanced Topics in Accounting Information Systems (3)
ICSI 431/531 Data Mining (3)
ICSI 5xx Operating Systems (3)
ICSI 524 Information Security (3)
ICSI 526 Cryptography (3)
ICSI 550 Information Retrieval (3)
ICSI 616 Computer Communication Networks II (3)
IINF 540 Information Security Risk Assessment (1)[1]
IINF 541 Security Policies (1)*
IINF 542 Computer Forensics (1)*

Secondary Specialization

The secondary specialization is primarily based on their understanding of the specific area of information assurance. For details regarding requirements for a secondary specialization, please contact one of the IA faculty members.

Information, Government, and Democratic Society (IGDS)

This concentration focuses on the role, use, influence, and consequences of information and ICTs (information and communication technologies) in government and democratic society. Researchers in this area study how people interact with government, public institutions, political associations, and other citizens through ICTs, focusing on the social and political impacts of technology-enabled discourse. Researchers also study the information management and public communication policies and practices of government, as well as governmental use of information and technology to provide services, impose requirements, and monitor the activities of individuals and groups.

Faculty:

David Andersen, Rockefeller College
Deborah Andersen, College of Computing and Information
Anthony Cresswell, Center for Technology in Government
Sharon Dawes, Rockefeller College
Senem Guney, College of Computing and Information
Teresa Harrison, College of Arts and Sciences
Rey Koslowski, Rockefeller College
Terry Maxwell, College of Computing and Information
Theresa Pardo, Center for Technology in Government
George Richardson, Rockefeller College
Sandor Schuman, Center for Policy Research
Janet Stamatel, School of Criminal Justice
Jennifer Stromer-Galley, College of Arts and Science
Giri Tayi, School of Business
Ozlem Uzuner, College of Computing and Information

Primary Specialization

Specialization Courses (10 credits):

RPAD 550 Foundations of Government Information Strategy and Management (4 credits)
ACOM 520 Theories and Research in Political Communication (3 credits)
IIST 560 Information and Public Policy (3 credits)

Elective Courses (any 3 courses required):

ACOM 503 Message Design and Social Influence (3 credits)
ACOM 523 Political Decision Making (3 credits)
ACOM 625 Media and Politics (3 credits)
ACOM 626 Campaign Communication (3 credits)
ACOM 635 Topics in Political Communication (3 credits)
IINF 659 Technology and Contemporary Organizational Life (3 credits)

IIST 614 Administration of Information Agencies (3 credits)
IIST 615 Advanced Seminar in Information Policy and Management (3 credits)
RCRJ 695 Responsible Use of Criminal Justice Information (3 credits)
RPAD 610 Organizational Theory and Behavior (4 credits)
RPAD 615 Strategic Planning (4 credits)
RPAD 624 Simulating Dynamic Systems (4 credits)
RPAD 637 Social and Organizational Networks in Public Policy, Management and Service Delivery (4 credits)
RPAD 650 Building a Case for IT Investments in the Public Sector (4 credits)
RPAD 652 Seminar in Information Strategy and Management (1-4 credits)
RPAD 724 Simulation for Policy Analysis & Design (3-6 credits)
RPAD 824 Advanced Topics in System Dynamics (1-6 credits)
RPOS 527 American Constitutional Law: Civil Liberties (4 credits)
RPOS 529 Law and Public Policy (4 credits)
RPOS 543 Science, Technology and Public Policy (4 credits)
RPOS 583 International Law and Organization (4 credits)
RPOS 718 Seminar in Government, Politics, and the Mass Media (4 credits)
RPOS 765 Media and the Courts (4 credits)
RPUB 522 Politics and Policy (4 credits)

Secondary Specialization

The following 3 courses are recommended for a secondary specialization:

RPAD 550 Foundations of Government Information Strategy and Management
ACOM 520 Theories and Research in Political Communication
IIST 560 Information and Public Policy

Appropriate courses from departments and colleges such as Communication, History, Sociology, Business, and Computer Science and Information can substitute for the above after consultation with advisor.

Information in Organizational Environments (IOE)

Contemporary organizations are built as webs of information exchange and flow. The study of information in these organizational environments requires a multidisciplinary approach. This approach draws its knowledge, theories, and methods from a host of social sciences including information and communication studies, sociology, psychology; and business, education, and public administration. The field is typically divided into two domains: micro- and macro-organizational studies. Micro-organizational studies focus on organizational behavior at the level of individual and group. Macro-organizational studies focus on organization behavior at the level of the organization and its environment. Students taking this specialization should have some familiarity with both of these domains. There are three tracks

from which students can choose: (1) General organizational studies, (2) Micro-organizational studies, or (3) Macro-organizational studies.

Faculty:

Anthony Cresswell, Center for Technology in Government
Sue Faerman, Rockefeller College
Senem Guney, College of Computing and Information
Teresa Harrison, College of Arts and Sciences
Terry Maxwell, College of Computing and Information
Theresa Pardo, Center for Technology in Government
Sandor Schuman, Center for Policy Research

Primary Specialization

Specialization Courses:

This specialization draws primarily upon existing courses in the Departments of Communication, Psychology, Sociology, Educational Administration, Management, and Public Administration and Policy. As a primary specialization, it is expected that students take at least 24 credits in courses that include a range of perspectives on organizational studies from the micro to the macro level.

Track 1 - General Organizational Studies: suggested minimum of 2 courses each in micro- and macro-organizational studies

Track 2 - Micro-Organizational Studies: a suggested minimum of 3 courses in micro-organizational studies and at least one course in macro-organizational studies

Track 3 - Macro-organizational Studies: a suggested minimum of 3 courses in macro-organizational studies and at least one course in micro-organizational studies

Micro-Organizational Studies: Courses in this area are primarily concerned with perceptions, values, motivations, and behaviors of individuals and groups. Examples of typical courses offered in this area are:

APSY 641 Survey of Organizational Psychology (3 credits)
APSY 668 Group Dynamics (3 credits)
APSY 765 Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes (3 credits)
ASOC 555 Social Interaction Processes (3 credits)
RPAD 632 Group Dynamics in Organization (4 credits)
RPAD 633 Organizational Analysis and Development (4 credits)
BMGT 602 Managing Productivity and Quality of Work Life (3 credits)

BMGT 740 Seminar in Work Motivation (3 credits)
BMGT 750 Seminar in Leadership and Managerial Skills (3 credits)

Macro-Organizational Studies: Courses in this area are primarily concerned with strategies and structures, normative and cultural systems within organizations, relationships between organizations and their environments, and processes of organizational formation, transformation, and decline. Examples of typical courses offered in this area are:

ASOC 654 Complex Organizations and Bureaucracy (3 credits)
ASOC 666 Selected Topics in Sociology (3 credits)
RPAD 615 Strategic Planning and Management (4 credits)
RPAD 690 Regulatory Administration (4 credits)
RPAD 737 Contemporary Organization Theory (4 credits)
BMGT 675 Creativity and Entrepreneurship (3 credits)
BMGT 682 Strategic Management (3 credits)
BMGT 782 Seminar in Strategic Management (3 credits)

In addition, the following courses are considered appropriate for either Micro- or Macro- Organizational Studies:

RPAD 636 Cultural Analysis of Organization (4 credits)
RPAD 708 Organizational Behavior and Theory (4 credits)
RPAD 727 Seminar in Research Methodology and Management Science (4 credits)

Secondary Specialization

As a secondary specialization, students should take at least three courses (9-12 credits) with at least one micro- and one macro-organizational studies course.

Information Technology and Learning (ITL)

This specialization may not be offered. Please contact the Assistant Dean of Informatics at infinfo@albany.edu.

Knowledge Organization and Management (KOM)

This specialization covers all aspects of knowledge representation, organization, management and retrieval for information/knowledge in all formats and their use. Substantive areas include classification & categorization structures to represent knowledge, models of indexing & classification systems to aid in the construction of dictionaries & thesauri, models to facilitate visualization and retrieval of information. More specifically, the topical areas include ontologies, concept organization,

information retrieval, vocabulary management, metadata structures, visual representations, information behavior, relevance and evaluation.

Faculty:

Deborah Andersen, College of Computing and Information
Philip B. Eppard, College of Computing and Information
Ingrid Fisher, School of Business
Jagdish Gangolly, College of Computing and Information
Hemalata Iyer, College of Computing and Information
Paul Miesing, School of Business
Neil Murray, College of Computing and Information
Abebe Rorissa, College of Computing and Information
Ozlem Uzuner, College of Computing and Information
Xiaojun (Jenny) Yuan, College of Computing and Information

Primary Specialization

Required specialization courses (6 credits):
    IIST602 Information and Knowledge Organization
    Either ICSI550 or IIST533 Information Storage and Retrieval

Suggested additional courses (15 or more credits):
    IIST603 Information Processing
    IIST666 Current Problems in Information Science (as appropriate)
    ICSI 531 Data Mining
    IINF 551 (CSI 551/PHY 551) Bayesian Data Analysis and Signal
Processing
    ICSI 636 Natural Language Processing
    LIN 636 Computational Linguistics
    CSCI 6100 - Machine and Computational Learning (this course is
     offered by RPI)
    IINF 659 Technology & Contemporary Organizational Life (3 credits)
    IINF 766 Topics in Information Science (1-3 credits--as appropriate)
    LIN 521 Introduction to Syntactic Theory (3-4 credits)
    PHI 531 Logic and Philosophy (4 credits; unclear when last offered)
    PHI 515 Philosophy of Language (4 credits; offered Fall 2008)
    ICSI 530 Intro to Mathematical Logic (3 credits)
    ICSI 535 Artificial Intelligence I (3 credits)

 AND other courses that the student and his/her program advisement
 committee deem are appropriate to the students proposed areas of study,
 research and interest.

Secondary Specialization

Contact KOM faculty for details.

Self-Designed Primary Specializations

It is possible for a student to create a self-designed primary specialization with approval of the INF Ph.D. faculty. The INF Ph.D. Program Director cannot give approval without approval of the faculty through an appointed faculty committee on self-designed specializations. It is essential that the student can demonstrate

1. that he or she has support from at least two faculty members who will present the proposal to the faculty as a whole and act as Program Guidance Committee Chair and member,
2. that there is faculty expertise in the proposed area on campus and a commitment by these faculty to work with the student, and
3. that the proposed specialization complements the student's overall program plan and tentative dissertation plan and works within the information science field.

Proposal and Approval Process

1. Student must write a rationale for their desired self-designed primary specialization and explain why current program-defined specializations are not adequate options.
2. Student must provide a proposal of courses to take/graduate credits to apply from previous coursework to support the proposed self-designed primary specialization. Primary specializations should have 21-24 credits. Please note that at least 12 credits of a self-designed primary specialization should be taken while enrolled in the INF Ph.D. program.
3. Student must identify at least one research tool course he or she intends to take in support of the self-designed primary specialization. A research methods course will not fulfill this requirement.
4. Student must have at least two University at Albany faculty members (one of whom must be part of the INF Ph.D. faculty) approve this rationale and proposal in writing. One of these faculty members must act as Program Guidance Committee Chair.
5. The Program Guidance Committee Chair should present the rationale and proposal to an appointed faculty committee on self-designed specializations. The Program Guidance Committee Chair should also provide a copy of the rationale and proposal to the Program Director for review, but not approval. The appointed faculty committee on self-designed specializations must approve the request in order for the student to pursue that specialization.
6. Self-designed primary specializations must be certified complete by the student's Program Guidance Committee just as program-designed specializations are. When primary specialization coursework is completed, the student must submit a paper of publishable quality to their Program Guidance Committee for certification that the requirement has been completed. The student's Program Guidance Committee may decide to include an additional requirement to certify

completion of the self-designed primary specialization. This would be included in the student's original rationale and proposal.

Chapter 3

Faculty, Courses and Support

Faculty

David F. Andersen, Distinguished Service Professor, Public Administration and Policy

Research interests: Public management, simulation and decision support systems in public policy, government information management

Phone: 518-442-5280; Email: david.andersen@albany.edu

Deborah Lines Andersen, Associate Professor, Information Studies/Informatics

Research interests: Research methods and statistics, electronic information access technologies and their users, public libraries

Phone: 518-442-5122; Email: dla@albany.edu

Robert L. Bangert-Drowns, Associate Professor, Educational Theory and Practice

Research interests: Meta-analytic and literature review methodology, instructional design for computer-based instruction, higher-order thinking and literacy

Phone: 518-442-5022; Email: rbangert@csc.albany.edu

George Berg, Associate Professor, Computer Science

Research interests: Machine learning, computational biology, and natural language processing

Phone: 518-442-4267; Email: berg@cs.albany.edu

Peter A. Bloniarz, Dean, College of Computing and Information

Research interests: Curriculum and pedagogic innovations, public sector information systems

Phone: 518-956-8240; Email: p.bloniarz@albany.edu

Monika P. Calef, Assistant Professor, Geography and Planning/Informatics

Research interests: Analyzing and modeling large scale landscape patterns and dynamics using GIS

Phone: 518-591-8563; Email: mcalef@albany.edu

Indushobha Chengalur-Smith, Associate Professor, Information Technology Management

Research interests: Decision-making, information quality, and technology implementation, open source software, security policy

Phone: 518-442-4028; Email: shobha@albany.edu

Anthony M. Cresswell, Interim Director, Center for Technology in Government and Associate Professor, Educational Administration and Policy Studies

Research interests: Organizational studies and the role of information in organizational action and innovation, with a focus on government

Phone: 518-442-3766; Email: tcresswell@ctg.albany.edu

Sharon S. Dawes, Associate Professor, Public Administration & Policy

Research interests: Information management in public sector

Phone: 518-442-3027; Email: sdawes@ctg.albany.edu

Stephen E. DeLong, Professor, Informatics/Information Studies

Research interests: Application of statistical physics to information retrieval and organization

Phone: 518-956-8248; Email: delong@albany.edu

Peter J. Duchessi, Associate Professor, Information Technology Management

Research interests: Information technology-enabled business models, securing supply chains with radio frequency identification (RFID) and electronic product code (EPC) technologies, electronic connectivity in modern supply chains

Phone: 518-442-4945; Email: duchessi@cnsunix.albany.edu

Philip B. Eppard, Professor, Information Studies

Research interests: Archives, records administration, preservation management, electronic records, history of recorded information

Phone: 518-442-5119; Email: pbe40@albany.edu

Sue Faerman, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Associate Professor, Public Administration and Policy

Research interests: Managerial transitions, organizational behavior, and leadership effectiveness

Phone: 518-442-3950; Email: sfaerman@uamail.albany.edu

Ingrid Fisher, Associate Professor, Accounting and Law

Research interests: Information retrieval, automatic thesaurus construction, information semantics, assurance in business information systems

Phone: 518-442-4948; Email: i.fisher@albany.edu

Jagdish S. Gangolly, Associate Professor, Informatics/Accounting and Law

Research interests: Knowledge representation issues in accounting, concept classification in accounting, formal modeling of internal controls, and security in auditing

Phone: 518-442-4949; Email: gangolly@csc.albany.edu

Sanjay Goel, Associate Professor, Information Technology Management

Research interests: Application of information technology in business and engineering applications, computer networking and network security (including cryptography and public key infrastructure), network-based distributed computation and availability of services

Phone: 518-442-4925; Email: goel@uamail.albany.edu

Jennifer Goodall, Service Assistant Professor, Informatics

Research interests: Curriculum development, women in information technology

Phone: 518-956-8245; Email: jgoodall@uamail.albany.edu

Senem Guney, Assistant Professor, Informatics

Research interests: Organizational identity and sense making in collaborative action, forms of organizing and leadership in distributed work environments, role of communication technologies in the construction of organizational identity among collaborating project teams, use of the theory of complex adaptive systems (CAS) in social research, epistemological connections between the study of CAS and narrative analytical methods, organizational ethnography, discourse analysis

Phone: 518-442-4473; Email: sguney@ctg.albany.edu

Teresa M. Harrison, Professor, Communication

Research and teaching interests: Computer-mediated communication, community applications of new technologies, technology and democracy, digital government, community networking, geographic information systems, urban communication, communication theory, and organizational communication.

Phone: 518-442-4883; Email: harrison@albany.edu

Hemalata Iyer, Associate Professor, Information Studies

Research interests: Classification theory, information organization and retrieval, natural language representation

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Kevin Knuth, Assistant Professor, Physics/Informatics

Research interests: Inductive inference and inquiry, source separation of mixed signals, information processing in the brain, identification of relevant causal interactions, astrobiology, intelligent instruments and robotics

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Rey Koslowski, Associate Professor, Political Science/Informatics

Research interests: international relations dealing with international organization, European integration, international migration, information technology, homeland security

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Timothy Lance, Professor, Mathematics & Statistics/Informatics

Research interests: Geometric toplogy, group actions on manifolds, cobordism theory, smoothing theory, homotopy theory of classifying spaces, applications to number theory, non-linear similarity

Phone: 518-442-4610; Email: lance@albany.edu

Kate Lawson, Assistant Professor, Geography & Planning

Research interests: Travel behavior, freight, archived intelligent transportation systems data, community development, housing issues, land use, transportation planning, and spatial analysis/geographic information system applications

Phone: 518-442-4775; Email: lawsonc@albany.edu

Terry Maxwell, Associate Professor, Information Studies

Research interests: Intellectual property policy, organizational information management and use, information policy, information public domain

Phone: 518-442-5126; Email: tamaxwell@hvc.rr.com

Paul Miesing, Associate Professor, Management

Research interests: Strategic vision, organizational change and transformation, technology transfer, business and education use of information technology

Phone: 518-442-4942; Email: paul.miesing@albany.edu

Lakshmi Mohan, Associate Professor, Information Technology Management

Research interests: Decision Support Systems, Business Intelligence, Data Warehousing & Data Mining, Customer Relationship Management and Information Resource Management

Phone: 518-442-4927; Email: l.mohan@albany.edu

James Mower, Associate Professor, Geography and Planning

Research interests: Automated cartography, geographic information system, application of real-time perspective viewing models, applications of parallel computing

Phone: 518-442-4779; Email: jmower@albany.edu

Neil V. Murray, Professor, Computer Science

Research interests: Automated deduction, extension of deductive techniques to various non-classical logics, including multiple-valued, annotated and fuzzy logic, knowledge compilation

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Toni Naccarato, Assistant Professor, Social Welfare/Informatics

Research interests: Child welfare, analysis and reform of economics and social policy

Phone: 518-591-8788; Email: tnaccarato@uamail.albany.edu

Theresa A. Pardo, Research Assistant Professor, Public Administration and Policy, Deputy Director, Center for Technology in Government

Research interests: Information technology innovation in the public sector, cross-boundary collaboration and information sharing, preservation of government records in digital form, return on investment analysis for public sector IT.

Phone: 518-442-3892; email tpardo@ctg.albany.edu.

Eliot Rich, Assistant Professor, Information Technology Management

Research interests: Simulation, software systems, knowledge management

Phone: 518-442-4944; Email: e.rich@albany.edu

George P. Richardson, Professor, Public Administration and Policy

Research interests: Computer simulation, modeling for public policy analysis and group decision support

Phone: 518-442-5258; Email: gpr@albany.edu

Abebe Rorissa, Assistant Professor, Information Studies

Research interests: multimedia information organization and retrieval, measurement and scaling of users' information need and their perceptions of multimedia information sources and services, the use/acceptance/adoption and impact of information and communication technologies (ICTs).

Phone: 518-442-5123; Email: arorissa@uamail.albany.edu

Sandor Schuman, Research Associate, Center for Policy Research

Research interests: Information and decision-making, collaborative problem solving, and organizational change

Phone: 518-442-5889; Email: sschuman@albany.edu

Peter Shea, Assistant Professor, Educational Theory and Practice/Informatics

Research interests: Student and faculty experience in technology-mediated teaching and learning, teaching presence, community in asynchronous learning networks

Phone: 518-442-4009; Email: pshea@uamail.albany.edu

Janet Stamatel, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice/Informatics

Research interests: cross-national crime comparisons, social change and crime, measurement and methods, data collection and utilization

Phone: 518-591-8786; Email: jstamatel@albany.edu

Joette Stefl-Mabry, Assistant Professor, Information Studies

Research interests: Integration and assessment of educational technologies, user needs; social implications of technology, media decision-making, and media exposure and its effects on brain functioning

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Jennifer Stromer-Galley, Assistant Professor, Communication

Research interests: Political communication and media studies

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Tomek Strzalkowski, Associate Professor, Computer Science

Research interests: Computational linguistics, information retrieval &
summarization, knowledge representation and knowledge-based systems,
logic programming, and artificial intelligence

Phone: 518-442-4275; Email: tomek@cs.albany.edu

Kinsum Tam, Associate Professor, Accounting and Law

Research interests: XML, markup languages, computerized content analysis
of corporate text documents, database internal controls, and application of
Internet technologies

Phone: 518- 442-4950; Email: tam@csc.albany.edu

Giri Kumar Tayi, Professor, Information Technology Management

Research interests: Data communications and communications networks,
information economics and policy, and quantitative models for policy analysis

Phone: 518-442-4947; Email: gk952@cnsunix.albany.edu

Ozlem Uzuner, Assistant Professor, Information Studies

Research interests: medical informatics, medical language processing,
electronic health records, natural language understanding, natural language
information access, information retrieval, information extraction, privacy,
security, and intellectual property, and user interfaces

Phone: 518-442-5110; Email: ouzuner@albany.edu

Xiaojun (Jenny) Yuan, Assistant Professor, Information Studies

Research interests: information-seeking behavior, information retrieval, user
interface design and evaluation, information visualization, usability testing,
human-computer interaction, and digital libraries

Phone: 518-591-8746; Email: xy454777@albany.edu

INF Ph.D. Courses

IINF 523 Fundamentals of Information Technology (1 credit for each module, 4-6 credits total) A university-wide offering that introduces fundamentals of information technology in an intensive graduate format. The course focuses on selected topics such as database applications, introduction to programming, web technologies, and Unix and networking that are offered in one credit modules, each lasting for half a semester. Offered in the fall only.

IINF 540 Information Security Risk Assessment (online course) (1 credit) This course provides students with an introduction to the field of information security risk assessment. Initially, the students will be introduced to basic definitions and nomenclature in the area of security assessment. Thereafter they will be taught different approaches for assessment of risk. The course will incorporate cases in risk analysis derived from state and law enforcement agencies. Students will learn how to use a risk analysis matrix for performing both quantitative and qualitative risk analysis. As part of the course the students learn the different threats that they need to incorporate in their risk analysis matrices.

IINF 541 Security Policies (1 credit) This course provides students with an introduction to information security policies. Students will be introduced to sociological and psychological issues in policy implementation in general and then provided with a focused dialogue on information security specific policies. The class discusses the entire lifecycle of policy creation and enactment and presents students with issue specific policies in different domains of security. The structure of the policy is also discussed to assist the students in design and modification of policies. Several examples from different domains are incorporated in the curriculum to assist students to learn in context of real life situations.

IINF 542 Computer Forensics (1 credit) Computer forensics is the study of cyber attack reporting, detection, and response by logging malicious activity and gathering court-admissible chains-of-evidence using various forensic tools able to trace back the activity of hackers. The course provides students with training in collection and preserving evidence from computers and networks.

IINF 543 Incident Handling (1 credit) The course primarily involves management of computer security incidents, including detailing different types of incidents, identification, preparation, and analysis of incidents; as well as gathering of evidence, recovery and follow-up to computer security incidents.

INF 551 (PHY 551/CSI 551) Bayesian Data Analysis and Signal Processing (3 credits) This course will introduce both the principles and practice of Bayesian and

maximum entropy methods for data analysis, signal processing, and machine learning. This is a hands-on course that will introduce MATLAB computing language for software development. Students will learn to write their own Bayesian computer programs to solve problems relevant to physics, chemistry, biology, earth science, and signal processing, as well as hypothesis testing and error analysis. Optimization techniques to be covered include gradient ascent, fixed-point methods, and Markov chain Monte Carlo sampling techniques. Prerequisites: Csi 101or Csi 201, Mat 214, or equivalents, or permission of instructor.

IINF 659 Technology and Contemporary Organizational Life (3 credits) This course explores the social and communicative life of organizations whose boundaries are no longer limited to a building, to a region, to a country, or even to an easily definable community. We will examine some fundamental issues of communicating and organizing through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in these "distributed" organizational settings. Readings, lectures, and discussions will focus on how the use of these technologies is transforming the workplace and is affecting the practice of leadership, production and sharing of knowledge, collaboration, and teamwork.

IINF 710 Research Design in Information Science (4 credits) Students will examine research issues in information science at an advanced level, focusing on appropriate research design, data gathering techniques and analysis relating to data collection and measurement. Students will explore the research design process from both qualitative and quantitative points of view. Prerequisite: IINF 711 and 712. Offered in the fall only.

IINF 711 Research Seminar I (1 credit) This course is offered every fall for all first-semester students. The course meets once a week to hear presentations by faculty about their current research. In addition, research skills are developed, such as evaluation of information science literature, how to write a literature review, how to plan and use bibliographic software, and how to do a poster session at a conference. Offered in the fall only.

IINF 712 Research Seminar II (1 credit) This course is offered every spring for all second-semester students. This course meets weekly during the semester to plan and coordinate the INF Research Conference while also developing posters to present at the Research Conference. Students develop their research agenda by completing their INF Program Plan. Prerequisite: IINF 711. Offered in the spring only.

IINF 713 Research Seminar III (1 credit) This course is offered every fall for all third-semester students. This course meets weekly to hear presentations by faculty about their current research. Students develop research relationships with faculty to continue their own research. Prerequisite: IINF 711 and IINF 712. Offered in the fall only.

IINF 714 Research Seminar IV (1 credit) This course is offered every spring for all fourth-semester students. This course meets weekly during the semester to guide students' independent research. Students present their research with a faculty member at the INF Research Conference. Prerequisite: IINF 711, IINF 712 and IINF 713. Offered in the spring only.

IINF 720 Managing Information and Technology in Organizations (2 credits) This course will introduce information systems research paradigms grounded in organization theory and provide a framework for applying theoretical concepts and empirical tools to the management of information and technology in organizations. Offered in alternating fall semester only.

IINF 721 Information and Society (2 credits) Relationships between information and communication technologies and social action; how social and organizational factors influence processes and systems, and how the use of ICTs influence our (changing) understanding and experience of dealing with information. Offered in alternating spring semester only.

IINF 722 Information Organization (2 credits) Text analysis for information extraction, organization of information for knowledge sharing, and visualization of information to support users' diverse cognitive styles. Offered in alternating fall semester only.

IINF 723 Information and Computing (2 credits) Development of theories and concepts that underlie the operation of information processing and retrieval systems; consequences derived from these theories that should be considered in designing such systems; theoretical foundations of information and computation; technologies and application areas. Offered in alternating spring semester only.

IINF 724 Information Policy (2 credits) National and international information policy development trends, processes, and conflicts; policy, law, and culture; information economics, industries, and trade; policies of information commodities (e.g. intellectual property, privacy). Offered in alternating spring semester only.

IINF 766 Special Topics in Information Science (1-3 credits) Current problem, issue or development in Information Science is explored. This course may be repeated for credit with permission of Ph.D. Program Director. Prerequisite: Admission to Information Science Ph.D. Program, or permission of Ph.D. Program Director.

IINF 787 Field Research Methods (3 credits) This course is about data collection and analysis techniques in conducting ethnographic (fieldwork) research in institutional settings. Topics of discussion will include how to collect observational, interview, and documentary data and how to create analytical reports based upon these data. This course will include observation and writing exercises that will give students some practical experience in

doing fieldwork-based research. In the context of these exercises, we will discuss important methodological issues about writing field notes, coding field notes, and constructing analytical narratives out of coded data. This course will be offered to graduate students at the master's and doctoral levels. Doctoral students taking this course will have one or more additional assignments, including writing or revising a proposal for an ethnographic study. Prerequisite: PAD 704 or INF 710

IINF 894 Directed Readings in Information Science (1-4 credits) Supervised readings for doctoral students on a particular topic or significant problem in Information Science. Prerequisite: Admission to Information Science Ph.D. Program, or permission of Ph.D. Program director. Only *12 credits* of IINF 894 can count toward the doctoral degree.

IINF 897 Independent Study and Research in Information Science (1-4 credits) Independent study and research in Information Science at the doctoral level under the direction of a member of the faculty. Prerequisite: Admission to Information Science Ph.D. Program, or permission of Ph.D. Program director. Only *12 credits* of IINF 897 can count toward the doctoral degree.

IINF 899 Doctoral Dissertation (1-12 credits) Required of all candidates completing the Doctor of Philosophy degree. During the period when the candidate is working on his or her dissertation, registration each fall and spring session for a minimum of 1 load equivalent unit is required. Prerequisite: Admission to Ph.D. candidacy.

Courses in Research Design, Data Collection and Data Analysis (not in INF)

(This list contains examples only; it is not exhaustive or necessarily up-to-date. Some of these are at the master's level, some at the doctoral level. Please check with course instructors and your Program Guidance Committee for course content and suitability for meeting doctoral requirements. These do *not* all fulfill the University Research Tool Requirement.)

College of Computing and Information

INF 551 (PHY 551/CSI 551) Bayesian Data Analysis and Signal Processing (3)

Rockefeller College

PAD 621 Quantitative Methods in Public Administration (4)

PAD 622 Methods of Public Policy Analysis (4)

PAD 636 Cultural Analysis of Organization (4)

PAD 704 Research Methods I (4)

PAD 705 Research Methods II (4)

School of Business

ACC 522 Statistical Analysis for Business Decisions (3)

School of Criminal Justice

CRJ 681 Statistical Techniques in Criminal Justice Research (3)

CRJ 682 Research Design in Criminal Justice (3)

CRJ 687 Statistical Techniques in Criminal Justice Research II (4) [3]

School of Social Welfare

SSW 679 Statistics and Data Analysis I (4)

SSW 687 Statistics and Data Analysis II (4)

School of Public Health

STA 552 Principles of Statistical Inference I (3)

STA 553 Principles of Statistical Inference II (3)

School of Education

EPSY 530 Statistical Methods I (3)

EPSY 630 Statistical Methods II (3)

College of Arts and Sciences

SOC 522 Intermediate Statistics for Sociologists (3)

SOC 622 Advanced Statistics for Sociologists (3)

SOC 535 Qualitative Research Techniques (3)

COM 525 Communications Research Methods (3)

COM 587 Field Research Methods (3)

PSY 511 Statistics and Experimental Methods II (4)

POS 618 Qualitative Research Methods (4)

Ways to Meet the IINF 523 Requirement

INF 523 Fundamentals of Information Technology is a four credit course consisting of four modules of one credit each. It is an introduction to the fundamentals of information technology, presented in an intensive graduate format. The course is designed to prepare students for the core courses required as part of the Information Science PhD program.

The course modules are:

- Database Applications
- Introduction to Programming
- Web Technologies
- UNIX and Networking

Students may pass this requirement during the first semester of study in one of four ways:

1. File for a waiver based on previous coursework using the form that follows. The coursework you present should be broadly in the area. For example, the Introduction to Programming module uses Java. The Introduction to Programming course that you took may have been in another language. That is okay. Another example is the Database Applications module, which is based on Microsoft ACCESS. You may have had coursework using another approach or based on another software program.
2. Take a short, four question quiz over orientation weekend. If you are familiar with the areas that the modules cover, but have not had formal coursework, you can take the quiz during the first week of classes. This approach may eliminate one or more modules you need to take during the Fall semester.
3. Take from one to four of the modules during the Fall semester. Note that these modules are NOT offered in the Spring, so if you want to take one or more of them, you should probably register for them during the first week of classes this Fall.
4. Take another short quiz in January. This option is offered for those students who have considerable background and/or experience in an area, but would prefer to brush up and take the quiz later in the semester. We do NOT recommend this option unless you have a strong technical background, because if you do not pass the quiz in January, you will be in default for the first year requirements. Check with the Program Director before choosing this option and let the Program Director know if you are choosing this option so that we can schedule the follow-up quiz in January. The take home quiz will be based on the material covered in the Fall semester.

If you have any questions about which of these options may be best for you, please consult with the Program Director or come to the first meeting of the IINF 523 class, where you will have a chance to meet the module instructors, look over the syllabi, and make a more informed decision.

Email Accounts and Listservs

The INFPHDSTU listserv is an important communication resource for students in the INF Ph.D. Program. This listserv is for current INF Ph.D. students only. Graduates of the program are encouraged to subscribe to INFPHDALU for announcements suitable for alumni. Although faculty and staff may post messages to this list, only students receive them. Faculty does not see student comments to the list. All students should have either a University at Albany e-mail account or a commercial personal e-mail account. After establishing an e-mail account, ALL DOCTORAL STUDENTS SHOULD SUBSCRIBE TO INFPHDSTU TO BE SURE THAT THEY WILL GET IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT REQUIREMENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

Messages to the INF Ph.D. faculty may be sent to INFPHDFAC@listserv.albany.edu.

Email Accounts

Each student is given a University UNIX email address. The address will look like: netid@albany.edu

To look up your NetID and initialize your email account, you must first set/reset your password at https://p2l3.albany.edu:8443/itspwdmaint/resetpwd.htm. Once set, choose from the available email options including WebMail, IMAP or POP, or direct login. Then configure your software at: www.albany.edu/its/accounts_email/config.html.

If you prefer, you may have your University mail forwarded to a different email address. Please note that many important University communications will be sent to your University email. You should either read your UNIX mail frequently or have it forwarded to an account that you do read frequently. Use WebSieve to manage your mail account, to set forwarding, and vacation messages. For more information, go to the ITS website at: www.albany.edu/its/

Subscribing to INFPHDSTU (current students)

1. Log on to your e-mail account.
2. Compose a message to: listserv@listserv.albany.edu. For the message, type: Subscribe INFPHDSTU your name (e.g. Bill Gates) to subscribe to INFPHDSTU.

3. Send the message.
4. You will receive an email message confirming your subscription, with instructions on how to post messages to the list.

Subscribing to INFPHDALU (alumni)

1. Log on to your e-mail account.
2. Compose a message to: listserv@listserv.albany.edu. For the message, type: Subscribe INFPHDALU your name (e.g. Bill Gates) to subscribe to INFPHDALU.
3. Send the message.
4. You will receive an email message confirming your subscription, with instructions on how to post messages to the list.

Professional Organizations

All doctoral students are encouraged to join at least one professional association while they are in school. Participation in a professional organization gives students a chance to learn about career paths they are considering and to become familiar with current problems and trends in the field. There are reductions in membership dues available to student members (often extending into the first year of regular membership), and members may also make use of the association's recruiting services to assist in job placement. Networking with experienced colleagues, attending meetings and conferences, serving on committees, making presentations, and helping to plan programs will undoubtedly assist with your career prospects and professional opportunities on a long-term basis.

Academy of Management
www.aomonline.org

American Association for Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)
www.aaai.org

American Library Association (ALA)
www.ala.org

American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA)
www.amia.org

American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST)
www.asis.org

American Society for Indexers (ASI)
www.asindexing.org

Association for Computing Machinery-Special Interest Group on Information Retrieval (ACM-SIGIR)
www.acm.org/sigs/sigir/

Association for Computing Machinery-Special Interest Group on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (ACM-SIGKDD)
www.acm.org/sigs/sigkdd/

American Society for Public Administration (ASPA)
www.aspanet.org

American Sociological Association (ASA)
www.asanet.org

Association for Information Management Professionals (ARMA)
www.arma.org

Association for Information Systems (AIS)
www.aisnet.org

Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE)
www.alise.org

Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS)
www.ala.org/ala/alcts/alcts.htm

Digital Government Society of North American (DG Society)
www.dgsociety.org

Hawaii International Conference on Systems Sciences
www.hicss.hawaii.edu

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE)
www.ieee.org

International Society of Knowledge Organizations (ISKO)
www.isko.org

Library and Information Technology Association (LITA)
www.lita.org

Management of Information Resources & Technology (SMART)
www.nyla.org/index.php?page_id=53

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC)
www.itd.umd.edu/MARAC/marac-hp.htm

National Communication Association
www.natcom.org

New York Library Association (NYLA)
www.nyla.org

System Dynamics Society
www.systemdynamics.org

UA Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) is a student run group that creates programs designed to facilitate and enhance the academic and extracurricular experience of graduate students at the University at Albany, SUNY.

Important Department of Informatics Contacts

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