

UALR INFORMATION SCIENCE

(<http://ualr.edu/informationscience/>)

What does Information Science do for an organization?

In Information Science, we solve information problems. Here are some examples.

- **Better Systems for Collecting, Processing, Storing, and Disseminating Information:** As an information science major, you will learn the concepts and techniques for analyzing, designing, and implementing the systems that will deliver the necessary information to your customers.
- **Better Information Design:** As an information science major, you will learn the concepts and techniques for how to present and interact with information so that it maximizes the ability of people to make use of this information for decision making.
- **Better Information Quality Assurance:** As an information science major, you will learn the concepts and techniques for protecting information and improving its fitness of use wherever it is needed.
- **Better Ways to Work with Information:** As an information science major, you will learn about how information is used by a variety of disciplines (engineering, bioinformatics/medicine, sciences, technology, mathematics, business, etc.) as well as being exposed to exciting technologies for working with information in new and innovative ways (Virtual Reality, Semantic Web and Social Media, Data Mining and Visualization, Artificial Intelligence/Robotics, etc.).

What types of jobs are available to someone with a BS in Information Science degree?

System Developers: As an information systems developer, you will utilize business insight as well as technical and data processing knowledge to produce the systems that your clients will use to obtain, store, share, manage, and use the information they need for decision making. This job includes developing, designing, customizing, enhancing, analyzing, improving, and maintaining solutions for clients in a team environment.

Application Developers: Application development involves the process, life cycle and creation of the programs aimed at helping users complete a computer task. Developers work closely with computer analysts and engineers in using tools such as Java, .Net or Javascript to develop and implement the necessary specifications for software. Developers also test, debug, and improve applications for clients. The choice of technologies for developing applications depends on the environment (mainframe, distributed computing, desktop, mobile, and getting more and more popular, web-based).

Helpdesk/Technical Consultants: As a helpdesk/technical consultant, you will work directly with customers to solve their information and technology problems (web access, workstations, printers, etc.). This includes diagnosing user problems, generating and implementing solutions to user problems and documenting problem resolution. In addition, you may participate in the development and testing of new or enhanced information systems or technologies.

Network/Hardware Specialists: As a network specialist, you will work on the networks (hardware and systems software) that comprise the information highway needed to support your organization and its customers. Your responsibilities will include researching products and vendors to match site needs, making recommendations about hardware configurations, installing new network hardware and software, conducting research on new technologies, and overseeing the installation of peripherals and wiring. You will also work closely with end users to document and prepare user procedures, as well as train end users in the use of network equipment.

Database Administrators: As a database administrator, you will assist in the implementation and maintenance of relational databases and their associated dictionaries and in monitoring database-related standards and procedures. Your responsibilities will include installing and configuring operating system software, RDBMS software and middleware, and client/application software. You will perform database analysis, create new databases, perform backups and restores, and manage disk storage allocations. As a DBA you will manage security through the creation of user accounts and provide consulting on performance tuning, relational database design, and coding standards.

