

Computer Information Systems

BACHELOR OF CIS DEGREE, MAJOR, MINOR, EXTENDED MINOR, DIPLOMA, CERTIFICATE

Why study computer information technology?

It's a fast-paced world and information technology continues to change rapidly. Both technology in general and the constant changes in technology have a huge impact on the business world, and people who can help manage those changes are in big demand. That's where you come in. Businesses and organizations require educated, well-trained people to not only use, but also to design, implement, maintain, support, and manage their computer systems and computer users.

WHY LEARN ABOUT COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS AT UFV?

Computer Information Systems differs from Computing Science in that there is a greater focus on using technology effectively to support and add value to organizations. This requires breadth and business knowledge as well as both theory and hands-on practice.

UFV offers a Bachelor of Computer Information Systems degree, a CIS diploma, and a CIS certificate. Students may wish to apply directly to the degree, and can apply to graduate with the CIS certificate and/or diploma after completing the required course work.

The CIS certificate can be obtained with a web design and animation option, and both the diploma and the degree can be obtained with a co-operative education option.



“UFV’s CIS programs give students the knowledge and practical skills to apply and manage the information technology essential for success today and tomorrow.”

— PAUL FRANKLIN,
UFV Computer
Information Systems.

Computer Information Systems (CIS)



“My favourite aspect of UFV’s CIS program has always been the dual emphasis on both technical skills and soft skills. The communication and business knowledge is extremely valuable.”

— DALETH HILDEBRAND, CIS graduate.

WHAT TYPE OF CAREER CAN I EXPECT?

Again, that depends on what exactly you choose to study. UFV’s CIS certificate grads are fully prepared for jobs that require some basic systems and networking expertise or expertise in specific computer applications, such as inventory control or accounting. Your career would be expected to develop along with the data processing needs of your employer, or you can climb the career ladder by choosing from the many openings in the IT field now.

Our diploma graduates will be prepared for entry-level programming, analyst, or systems and networking jobs, or even positions with small businesses with computerized systems where they might be required to perform a variety of tasks.

As a BCIS degree grad you will have up-to-date skills ready for the information technology industry, including optional concentrations in software development, computer security and systems, and networking.

All information technology professionals, regardless of whether they have a certificate, diploma or degree, must have up-to-date knowledge and experience with modern computing techniques and tools, a willingness to keep up with the rapidly changing field, and the ability to work well both in a team and individual setting. An ability to understand and support the applications and their users is also important. These jobs generally require high analytic, problem-solving, computing, and technical skills.

CAN I CHOOSE A CONCENTRATION?

If you choose, you may take a defined concentration in software development, security, or systems and networking along with your core courses.

CAN I STUDY PART-TIME?

Yes, that’s definitely an option, especially when earning your degree. Part-time students are welcome in the CIS degree program. We recognize that many degree students will be diploma graduates who are already established in their careers. Courses are offered in the evening on a regular basis.

IS THERE A CO-OP PROGRAM?

Both the diploma and the degree can be obtained with a co-operative education option. By completing the co-operative education option, you can combine your studies with three paid work terms that provide valuable on the job experience. The diploma with co-op takes 28 months to complete.

Degree students can also pursue the co-op option by completing additional paid work terms.

CAN I TRANSFER MY CIS CREDITS FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSITY?

Yes, transfer students are always welcome at UFV. If you are transferring, it’s best to consult the CIS department head for more details.

I PLAN TO EARN A MINOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE. WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

UFV offers several different concentrations in the BCIS program, and you can choose to minor in any other discipline that offers a minor, including Business Administration or Mathematics. Or, if you're taking science, you might choose to earn a minor in computing science. This particular concentration is more focused on the theoretical and mathematical aspects of computing and might suit your needs. To find out more about this minor, you should consult with your program advisor and the CIS department.

You can earn a minor or extended minor in Computer Information Systems, which is a valuable addition to your degree, regardless of which discipline you're studying. A CIS minor greatly increases your career opportunities in most areas. An extended minor provides more breadth and can be earned in conjunction with a major in another discipline, or in combination with a second extended minor in an Arts degree. The extended minor is also recommended if you're thinking of obtaining a Computer Information Systems minor for teaching purposes. If that's the route you might take, you should consult with your program advisor and the CIS department.

WHAT DO I NEED TO GET IN?

Admission to UFV's CIS program is on a competitive basis. Meeting the minimal requirements may not guarantee your admission. Specific requirements for the program are published on the UFV website at www.ufv.ca/cis.

Students in all programs must have completed Grade 12 or equivalent. Those 19 or older and without Grade 12 may be considered if their work experience indicates a reasonable chance of success.

CAN I GET ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE GAINED IN MY LIFE SO FAR?

Yes. UFV offers Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR), a flexible assessment process that evaluates your experiential learning (what you already know and can do) for post-secondary credit. Experiential learning includes independent study, volunteer activities, non-credit courses, workplace learning, and military service. To find out more, check out the PLAR website at www.ufv.ca/plar or contact Susan Brown, Assessment Services Coordinator, PLAR at 604.851.6342 or susan.brown@ufv.ca.

ANYTHING ELSE I NEED TO KNOW?

All students entering the CIS program are expected to be computer literate. This includes knowing how to run programs and manage files in a Windows environment, and having basic internet, word processing, and spreadsheet skills. You should consult the CIS website for specific prerequisite skills needed for beginning courses.

You are also strongly advised to have home access to a personal computer and an internet connection, both with adequate resources for your level of study. You can consult the CIS department or the Computer Information Systems Student Association for hardware and software recommendations.

I'M INTERESTED. WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Check out the UFV online calendar at www.ufv.ca/calendar and download an application form. Read the Computer Information Systems section of the calendar carefully. You can submit your application, along with the required documents and application fee, to the Admissions and Registration office at any campus or centre or via the internet at www.pas.bc.ca.

There is a January, May, and September intake and applications for the following year are accepted from October 1 onwards.

Applications for September should be received by January 31 of the same year. Applications received after this deadline will be considered if there is still space available in the program.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

It's best to check out the Fees and Other Costs section of our online calendar for current costs. Books and additional supplies normally cost \$75 to \$150 per course. You may have to plan for some additional recommended and mandatory costs in Computer Information Systems courses that may include training manuals, software, and hardware costs. These expenses will vary from year to year. You should budget \$500–\$1,000 for such costs over the four years of your degree program. Credits and fees also apply to the co-op work terms.

You should also visit UFV's Financial Aid and Awards office for information about the \$12 million in federal and provincial student loans, grants, bursaries, scholarships awarded to UFV students annually. A helpful budget planning worksheet is available online at www.ufv.ca/fineaid/budget.

WHAT SORT OF SUPPORT WILL I GET?

For more information about support and student services at UFV, visit www.ufv.ca/student-services to learn about the broad range of services designed to help you learn about and adjust to the university environment. CIS students can also enjoy the benefits of the Computer Information Systems Student Association (CISSA).

CAN I SPEAK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT MY OPTIONS?

We want to hear from you! If you're unsure of your direction, contact Student Services at 1-888-504-7441 to connect with an educational advisor, or arrange for career counselling. You can contact the CIS program advisor at 604-854-4589. Additional information is provided on our website at www.ufv.ca/cis.



The information contained in this document is subject to change. Please refer to www.ufv.ca/cis for up-to-date information. UFV reserves the right to cancel courses and programs.

www.ufv.ca/cis



About UFV

Nestled in the beautiful Fraser Valley just east of Vancouver, in B.C., UFV is a fully accredited, public university that enrolls more than 11,000 students each year. UFV has campuses in Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission and regional centres in Hope and Agassiz, and a growing presence in Chandigarh, India.

UFV is committed to exceptional post-secondary instruction and a nurturing learning environment. We are large enough to offer variety, yet small enough to offer the personal attention that our students need to thrive. Our small class sizes and focus on teaching allow our students to get to know their instructors and learn in a hands-on setting.

We offer more than 80 programs, including 13 bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and more than a dozen trades and technology programs. We believe that anyone who wants to go to university should be given the chance, so our admission policies are flexible, and we provide university prep courses and high school completion options. There are many options for learning: full-time, in class, online, as part of a structured program or one tailored specifically to your interests.

Many of our programs "ladder" into one another, allowing students to keep their options open. Our international programming makes for a culturally diverse student body and great opportunities to study abroad, while our continuing studies offerings make learning a lifelong experience.

UFV is recognized nationally for student success, an excellent learning environment, creative integration of programming, and our work with our local communities.

Get to know us better at www.ufv.ca.

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