INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND COMPUTING SCIENCES
Online Academic Programs at the University of Maine

- Are you or your business facing long-term challenges in incorporating computing, data science, and information systems thinking and the ability to communicate at a technical level among staff across your organization?
- Are you a Maine resident with at least a bachelor's degree in any STEM or business field that would like to learn computer coding but never had the opportunity?
- Do you already have an engineering, computer science, or other highly technical degree but could benefit from formal graduate course work within an information systems specialty domain?
- Would you like to prepare yourself with foundation knowledge and skills in coding, digital data handling, data science, and computer science that will allow you to excel in addressing computing challenges in a current or future job?

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, please consider the following **all-coursework, online graduate programs**. These rigorous programs have been **designed to accommodate students from wide-ranging backgrounds**. (See umaine.edu/scis/graduate-students). Incoming students are not required to have any previous computing background. However, those with substantial computing backgrounds have greater flexibility in selecting courses to include within their graduate programs.

- **Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS)**
  - online.umaine.edu/grad/master-of-science-in-information-systems

- **Graduate Certificate in Information Systems**
  - online.umaine.edu/graduate-certificates/information-systems

- **Master of Science in Spatial Informatics (MSSI)**
  - online.umaine.edu/spatialinformatics/

- **Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**
  - online.umaine.edu/graduate-certificates/geographic-information-systems/

The **core courses** in these programs focus on content knowledge in coding, computer science, and data handling to provide fundamental skills to enable lifelong learning on computing topics.

The **elective courses** in the graduate distance degrees may be drawn from numerous domains. For instance, those with **business** or **management** interests might want to pursue graduate electives in management information systems and data analytic, those with **natural science** or **physical science** backgrounds might want to pursue electives in geographic information systems, human computer interaction and virtual reality, those with **computer science** or **engineering** backgrounds might want to pursue electives in cyber security, machine learning, artificial intelligence, spatial informatics, and networking. A **teacher** might select multiple coding courses, GIS courses, or those addressing effective methods for teaching computer science. Regardless of previous degrees, numerous offerings are available to meet the distance needs of each individual student.

HIGHLIGHTS AND CHARACTERISTICS

- Complete a 100% online, all-coursework, 30-credit hours master's degree (10 courses) or a 15-credit hours Information Systems or GIS graduate certificate (5 courses).
  NOTE: Courses offered online are labeled with * at https://umaine.edu/msis/curriculum-and-degree-requirements/ and all at https://spatial.umaine.edu/courses/ are offered online and on-campus
- No previous computing background needed.
- Join a cohort of graduate students with wide ranging undergraduate degree backgrounds.
- Pursue rigorous courses in information systems and computing that address real world problems germane to yourself, your company, and your community.
- Learn to code as well as design and implement complex information systems and data acquisition systems.
- Acquire foundational knowledge that will prepare you well for lifelong learning on computing topics. Elective courses are available from multiple UMS campuses.
- Take the exact same courses as those taken by on-campus graduate students, viewing lectures and completing assignments each week on your own schedule.
- Interact with full-time internationally eminent computing professors who teach the same grad courses on-campus. Your diploma does not distinguish between on-campus versus on-line.
- Acquire techniques, ideas, and inspiration to apply immediately on the job.
- Expand your expertise within the context of your current organization or find great new job opportunities within the private business sector, non-profit sectors, government, and education.
- Enjoy highly affordable tuition compared to similar high-quality online graduate programs at other major land grant, sea grant, space grant public universities.
- Want to test the water? To facilitate efficient processing for Maine residents in a time of societal stress, GRE scores and letters of reference currently are NOT required in applying for the listed programs. Try a course to convince yourself that you have what it takes.

Whether your intent is primarily to gain fundamental knowledge enabling you to better contribute to problem solving in complex information organization and societal contexts or to gain in-depth knowledge in an information specialty domain, the offered graduate programs should place you on solid ground to meet future learning needs as technological changes advance.

Tuition scholarships are available for several newly admitted graduate students living in Maine for one course each in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021. Admission decisions for the grad programs and scholarship awards (about $1,350 per 3-credit course) will be made on a rolling basis so applying earlier rather than later is highly recommended. To ensure skin in the game, tuition scholarship recipients or their employers are expected to pay the graduate application fee (approx. $50) and any fees affiliated with the course.

Rolling admissions allow you to complete the graduate application immediately to begin your first online class in the Fall of 2020.

To learn more, contact a **UMaineOnline Advisor** at 207.581.5858 or umaineonline@maine.edu or contact Amanda Cupps directly at amanda.cupps@maine.edu or 207.581.3452.
For program specific questions, contact the **Program Coordinator, Professor Harlan Onsrud** at harlan.onsrud@maine.edu
Apply now at umaine.edu/graduate/apply