

# Information Technology Minor

## Background Information for Pre-major Advisors

### What's special about the IT Minor?

- ❑ The IT Minor is administered and taught by faculty and staff from all over campus;
- ❑ The IT Minor can be personalized to fit each student's major and interests;
- ❑ Students have opportunities to work closely with students from different majors;
- ❑ IT Minor graduates report high levels of satisfaction and often cite the minor as an important factor in attaining a good job.
- ❑ The IT Minor is nationally recognized for its flexible and inclusive interdisciplinary approach.

### Attachments.

- ❑ Information sheet on interdisciplinary IT Capstone course.\*
- ❑ IT Minor application form.\*
- ❑ IT Minor promotional sheet.\*
- ❑ IT Minor brochure\* (will be revised in late April).
- ❑ Two sample IT Course Profiles\*

\* Available in PAS lobby or at IT Program website.

### Next steps for students.

Students should first visit the IT Program website:

<http://www.umass.edu/itprogram>

and should be encouraged to contact the IT Program chair with any questions:

Glenn Caffery  
220B Stockbridge Hall  
Phone (413) 545-5739  
[caffery@resecon.umass.edu](mailto:caffery@resecon.umass.edu)

### About the IT Minor.

The IT Minor is designed to complement any major on campus by allowing students to choose six courses (including a prerequisite that may be waived) from a set of over 50. A personalized mix of courses helps students develop a technical foundation, a broad perspective on IT in society, and proficiency in IT applications in their fields of interest. We encourage advising by the IT Program chair so students understand the program requirements and choose courses that are most appropriate.

### Good candidates for the IT Minor.

The IT Minor meets the needs of a broad spectrum of students with a variety of aspirations. Contrary to many students' preconceptions, the IT Minor is not designed to train students to become programmers. In fact, students don't need to take any programming courses at all; the technical requirements can be satisfied with courses on database, multimedia, or Internet principles. No prior experience with IT is needed to enroll and flourish in the IT Minor.

Students complete the IT Minor with a variety of motivations: some want to work in the IT field; some want to understand how IT influences or might influence their major fields; and some want to work in jobs that integrate IT and their major fields, such as electronic arts, bioinformatics, Web journalism, or e-commerce. The IT Minor is designed to accommodate this diversity.

### Enrollment and Capacity.

Students are encouraged to enroll in the IT Minor by filling out an application form available at the IT Program website. At this time, all students that enroll in the IT Minor and who can be well served by the IT Minor are accepted. Most students have a conversation with the IT Program Chair upon application to be sure they understand the Minor structure and to begin a conversation about courses and goals. Enrollment in the IT Minor provides access for students into some courses that might otherwise be restricted to majors only, and periodic mailings keep IT Minor enrollees informed of IT Minor changes and opportunities.