PhD Requirements: Information Systems

Before Requirements:

**Admission Requirements:** In addition to the university’s Graduate School and Walton College of Business’ Graduate School of Business requirements, the ISYS Ph.D. program has the following requirement: Applicants are expected to have a background in information systems via prior courses in topics such as a programming language, systems analysis, design, and development, and database processing. Students without the background may also be admitted but will likely be required to take up to 3 master's level courses to remedy the deficiency.

**Requirements:** Requirements for the Ph.D. in business administration with concentration in information systems include core courses and elective courses in information systems, research tools, and supporting fields. These 43 credit hours of courses are taken prior to advancing to candidacy and are broken down as follows: research tools (9 hours); ISYS core courses (21 hours); and supporting field courses (13 hours). Also, there is a requirement that students satisfactorily complete a one-hour Graduate Colloquium during the fall and spring semesters of each year when students are in residence on campus in pursuit of the degree. Following completion of the coursework, students must pass a comprehensive examination. The program also requires completion of 1st and 2nd year summer research projects, defense of a dissertation proposal, and successful defense of the dissertation (18 credit hours). Students are also prepared for a career in research through research assistantships, collaborative research projects with faculty members, colloquia, and classroom teaching and support.

**Course Requirements**

Course List

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Research Tools | |  |
| [ISYS 5203](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%205203) | Experimental Design | 3 |
| [ISYS 5623](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%205623) | Multivariate Analysis | 3 |
| [ISYS 5723](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%205723) | Advanced Multivariate Analysis | 3 |
| Information Systems Core Courses | |  |
| Select seven of the following: | | 21 |
| [ISYS 6133](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206133) | Survey of IS Research |  |
| [ISYS 6233](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206233) | IS Research Projects |  |
| [ISYS 6333](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206333) | Individual-level Research in IS |  |
| [ISYS 6433](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206433) | Team-level Research in IS |  |
| [ISYS 6533](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206533) | Macro- and Meso-level IS Research |  |
| [ISYS 6633](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206633) | Systems Development |  |
| [ISYS 6733](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206733) | Emerging Topics |  |
| [ISYS 6833](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%206833) | Theory Development |  |
| [ISYS 601V](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%20601V) | Graduate Colloquium |  |
| Supporting Fields | |  |
| In addition to the [WCOB 6111](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=WCOB%206111) Teaching Seminar and MGMT 6213 Research Methods Seminar, courses to meet this requirement will be determined in consultation with the ISYS Ph.D. program committee (courses must be at the Ph.D. level, unless otherwise approved by the ISYS Ph.D. program committee). These courses are normally taken outside the ISYS Department and are in the student’s area(s) of interest. | | 13 |
| [WCOB 6111](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=WCOB%206111) | Seminar in Business Administration Teaching I | 1 |
| [MGMT 6213](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=MGMT%206213) | Seminar in Research Methods | 3 |
| Comprehensive Examination | |  |
| Written exam, research tools and IS (at the end of all coursework) | |  |
| Oral exam | |  |
| Summer Research Requirements | |  |
| 1st summer paper | |  |
| 2nd summer ( to include a round of feedback and revision) | |  |
| Dissertation Requirements | |  |
| Successful defense of Dissertation proposal 1 | |  |
| Successful defense of Dissertation 1 | |  |
| Other Ph.D. Courses Taken | |  |
| Students may take up to 9 hours of other Ph.D. courses, as necessary. | | 9 |
| Masters Level Courses | |  |
| Students typically without an information systems background will be required to take some Masters courses prior to taking their comprehensive examinations. These courses do not count toward the Ph.D. degree and are taken to remedy deficiencies. The ISYS Ph.D. program committee will determine whether a student needs to take one or more of these courses. The specific courses are: | |  |
| [ISYS 5423](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%205423) | Seminar in Systems Development |  |
| [ISYS 5503](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%205503) | Decision Support and Analytics |  |
| [ISYS 5833](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/search/?P=ISYS%205833) | Data Management Systems |  |

Footnotes

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | Minimum committee size: 4 |

**Residence Requirement**

There is a strong preference for students to be in residence — i.e., be full-time students with assistantship duties — during the entire program. Residence requirements are intended to ensure that every student has ample opportunity for the intellectual development that can result from a sustained period of intensive study and close association with scholars in the intellectual environment of the university. The requirement recognizes that growth as an independent scholar is not merely a matter of class attendance, but rather involves a broader development of the intellect that comes through intensive study, independent research, sustained association with faculty members and other colleagues who share common scholarly and professional interests, attendance at seminars and colloquia, intensive reading and familiarization with library resources, consultation with specialists in other disciplines and resource centers, and the opportunity for broadened exposure to current intellectual issues as they are revealed in various campus offerings.

After filing a Declaration of Intent to pursue the doctoral degree, a student must fulfill a residence requirement as outlined in the [Graduate Catalog](https://nextcatalog.uark.edu/graduatecatalog/objectivesandregulations/#degreestext) section on doctors of philosophy and education degrees.

After Changes:

Requirements for the Ph.D. in business administration with concentration in information systems include required courses in information systems, research, and supporting fields. These 70 credit hours of courses are taken prior to advancing to candidacy and are broken down as follows: Information Systems required courses (21 hours); research requirements (21 hours); and supporting field courses (10 hours). Following completion of the coursework, students must pass a candidacy examination. The program also requires completion of 1st and 2nd year summer research projects, defense of a dissertation proposal, and successful defense of the dissertation (18 credit hours). Students are also prepared for a career in research through research assistantships, collaborative research projects with faculty members, colloquia, and classroom teaching and support.

Required Courses (21 hours)  
ISYS 6133 Survey of IS Research

ISYS 6333 Individual-level Research in IS

ISYS 6373 Social Networks in Information Systems Research  
ISYS 6533 Macro- and Meso-level IS Research

ISYS 6743 Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Research  
ISYS 6753 Management of Knowledge and Information Systems   
ISYS 6833 Theory Development  
  
Research Requirements (21 hours)  
ISYS 601V Graduate Colloquium (12 hours)  
ISYS 5723 Advanced Multivariate Analysis  
6 hours of Research Electives (to be chosen in consultation with PhD Coordinator)

Supporting Field Courses (10 hours)   
WCOB 6111 Seminar in Business Administration Teaching I   
9 hours of Electives (to be chosen in consultation with PhD Coordinator)

Dissertation (18 hours)  
ISYS 700V Doctoral Dissertation

Candidacy Examination  
Students must satisfactorily complete a first and second year summer research project in advance of taking the candidacy exam. The candidacy exam comprises two parts: Research tools and Information Systems core. The written exam is administered in the summer after two years of coursework. Day 1 will be the research tools exam and Day 3 will be the Information Systems core exam. Students also have to satisfactorily pass an oral exam. Re-takes will be administered in the following January, if possible. Alternatively, the student will have to re-take the exam during the next administration of the exam. This includes students having to re-take only parts of the exam. Ordinarily, only one re-take of the exam (part or whole) is permitted.

TOTAL: 70 hours

\*Students must complete a minimum of 72 graduate credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree and 42 graduate credit hours beyond the master’s degree. For students who apply to the degree program without a master’s degree, a minimum of 2 additional credit hours in consultation with the Ph.D. coordinator will be required to fulfill the full degree requirements to include approved graduate courses. Additional hours may be assessed in individual cases to meet specific coursework deficiencies.

For a complete list of University Graduate School and International Education degree requirements, please visit their website at: <http://catalog.uark.edu/graduatecatalog/objectivesandregulations/>