

Advanced Career Informatics Curriculum

Informatics is for students who have an inquiring mind and are interested in the design of information systems to solve problems.

Course 1: Computers, Networks and Databases

This project-based-learning course engages students who are curious about informatics. In this course, students will learn how to use a design process to create systems that acquire, store and communicate data for a variety of career fields. Students will work collaboratively in teams to design systems, solve problems, think critically, be creative and communicate with each other and business partners. Students will participate in real-world experiences such as designing an inventory system for a retail store, comparing stores in a company to project future sales, track customer buying habits and more.

Course 2: Design for the Digital World

This project-based-learning course engages students who are interested in applying the design process to create systems such as a cloud-based digital storage system for images. Students will design a system to automatically collect and report data on highway usage. They will apply a geospatial system to map a store and develop a database that studies shopping habits. Through these projects, students will learn about data management and logic-based queries by collecting data, using the Global Positioning System (GPS) and analyzing data utilizing a geographic information system (GIS). They will learn how to automate data collection to make processes more effective and efficient. Students will work collaboratively in teams and demonstrate their knowledge and skills by presenting new and innovative ideas, techniques and solutions to business and industry partners.

Course 3: Databases in the Cloud

This project-based-learning course is for students who successfully completed courses one and two and who want to tackle the more complex challenges that business and industry face. Students at this level will learn about Web technologies, cloud storage, information security, data, animation, introductory computer programming and database applications. Students will take more responsibility for their own learning, problem solving and thinking outside of the box. Real-world challenges will require higher levels of research, building, testing, analyzing and improving systems. Students will develop solutions for real-world problems by designing a database for ticket sales; designing security for a database; creating a game with animation; reporting information based on population data in a community; and designing, building and testing an application for a database.

Course 4: Developing a Cloud Presence

Students in this capstone course will focus on the ethics of privacy, social networking, designing for clients and artificial intelligence through six authentic projects. Students will select a business partner and design, build and test a Web presence for a company that will apply the concepts from the three prior courses. Student teams will work collaboratively with a business partner to develop a proposal for the project with evaluation criteria. Once the business partner accepts the proposal, the student team will implement it by designing, planning, building the system, and testing and revising the system to meet the needs of the business. Depending on articulation agreements or state policy, opportunity for dual credit may be available to students who successfully complete this course.