ISDS 454
Senior Seminar in Information Systems Development

ISDS 454 is a senior-level seminar in information systems development, and serves as the capstone course for undergraduate students majoring in information systems. The overarching goals of ISDS 454 are: (1) to provide students with the opportunity to integrate the skills they have learned while pursuing their information systems degree into a cohesive whole, (2) to provide students with an opportunity to design, develop, and implement a fully operational information system, and (3) to ensure that students are familiar with the emerging technologies and ideas that will shape the business world in the near future. Students who successfully complete ISDS 454 will depart the course with a “big picture” understanding of the information systems discipline, and will have the experience, skills, and confidence necessary to immediately contribute to corporate systems development projects.

At the core of ISDS 454 is a semester-long information systems development project that is divided into two major phases. In the first phase, which maps roughly to the first half of the semester, students work in teams to plan, analyze, and design an information system of the team’s choosing. During this phase, each student will also prepare and present an individual presentation to the class that focuses on a topic related to information systems design. The first phase of the project concludes with each team formally presenting its system designs to the class, and soliciting feedback. In the second phase, which maps roughly to the second half of the semester, students work to build, test, and refine their team’s information system. Each student will prepare and present another individual presentation during this phase on an emerging topic or technology related to information systems. The second phase of the project, and indeed the course as a whole, culminates in a final presentation in which each team demonstrates its fully functional information system to the class, and discusses the challenges that had to be overcome and the lessons they learned during the development and implementation process.