From the original creation of this department in 1984, the goal was to provide coursework and research coverage drawn from a multidisciplinary continuum of academic areas whose common focus was the transformation of data into useful business information. To facilitate these goals, we offer courses in relevant areas that include: applied statistics, decision sciences, operations management, information systems, project management, cybersecurity, information assurance, and applied computer science.

The strategy of the ISDS Department has been to incorporate these areas into a series of course offerings and programs that examine the collection and storage of data, the structure and communication of data, the analysis and processing of data, the organization of production and operations management processes to utilize these data, the development of systems to generate meaningful and useable information that is used by business organizations, management of the security of organizational systems, and finally, the techniques for the effective management of information systems in organizations.

Faculties recruited for positions in the ISDS Department are chosen on the basis of their academic background in one or more of these fields so as to facilitate this multidisciplinary approach to our curricula and, as a result, current faculty have doctoral degrees in many interrelated disciplines including applied statistics, operations management, management information systems, industrial engineering, systems engineering, computer science, informatics, information science and data science.

Faculty teaching undergraduate courses are required to have a master’s degree with 18 hours of graduate work in the field they are teaching such as applied statistics, operations management, management information systems, industrial engineering, systems engineering, computer science, informatics, information science, social science, data science or a related discipline.

Faculty teaching graduate courses are required to have a doctoral/terminal degree in the teaching discipline or a related discipline such as applied statistics, operations management, management information systems, industrial engineering, systems engineering, computer science, informatics, information science and, data science. The disciplines listed above are viewed as related disciplines of each other for credentialing graduate faculty. As these disciplines are very practice-oriented, in exceptional circumstances, working professionals with significant work experiences in the field with Masters degree in the field they are teaching such as applied statistics, operations management, project management, management information systems, industrial engineering, systems engineering, computer science, informatics, information science, social science and, data science can be recruited to teach specific Masters level courses in the field subject to approval by the faculty and the Dean’s office on a case by case basis. Such approvals from the ISDS faculty can be obtained electronically through an electronic voting system (such as outlook vote). Those "working professionals" referred to above would only be allowed to teach courses where regular faculty are not available and/or want to teach them.