DIGITAL SCIENCES - B.A.

College of Communication and Information
School of Emerging Media and Technology
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Description

Admission to the Bachelor of Arts degree in Digital Sciences has been temporarily suspended as of spring 2021.

The Bachelor of Arts degree in Digital Sciences is designed to provide students with the ability to adapt and succeed in a rapidly changing digital world. The program provides a broad overview of digital technologies, often from multiple points of view. For example, a student may study the content and visual layout of a web page with a journalism professor and later study the programming aspects of a web page with a business professor. A course with an architect adds more material on design, and a course with a computer scientist adds additional programming skills. This multidisciplinary skill set adds the flexibility needed for many of today's careers.

Building on this broad overview, the program adds further depth in technical topics, societal issues, and project management. Students gain additional technical competency by studying information management, database systems and digital security. Finally, students learn how to work on a team by studying requirements engineering, project management and team dynamics.

Programs in the College of Communication and Information are, by nature, innovative, interdisciplinary and collaborative, which is critical to both professional and scholarly disciplines. Students are educated to work at the intersections of communication, information and technology. Through a core of diverse theory- and practice-based courses, students learn basic concepts that apply across the range of college programs and develop a sense of professional expectations and build toward interdisciplinary thinking and application.

FULLY OFFERED AT:
- Kent Campus

Admission Requirements

The university affirmatively strives to provide educational opportunities and access to students with varied backgrounds, those with special talents and adult students who graduated from high school three or more years ago.

Freshman Students on the Kent Campus: The freshman admission policy on the Kent Campus is selective. Admission decisions are based upon the following: cumulative grade point average, ACT and/or SAT scores, strength of high school college preparatory curriculum and grade trends. The Admissions Office at the Kent Campus may defer the admission of students who do not meet admissions criteria but who demonstrate areas of promise for successful college study. Deferred applicants may begin their college coursework at one of seven regional campuses of Kent State University. For more information on admissions, including additional requirements for some academic programs, visit the admissions website for new freshmen.

Freshman Students on the Regional Campuses: Kent State campuses at Ashtabula, East Liverpool, Geauga, Salem, Stark, Trumbull and Tuscarawas, as well as the Twinsburg Academic Center, have open enrollment admission for students who hold a high school diploma, GED or equivalent.

English Language Proficiency Requirements for International Students: All international students must provide proof of English language proficiency (unless they meet specific exceptions) by earning a minimum 525 TOEFL score (71 on the Internet-based version), minimum 75 MELAB score, minimum 6.0 IELTS score, minimum 48 PTE score or minimum 100 DET score; or by completing the ESL level 112 Intensive Program. For more information on international admission, visit the Office of Global Education's admission website.

Transfer, Transitioning and Former Students: For more information about admission criteria for transfer, transitioning and former students, please visit the admissions website.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate broad interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of digital sciences across traditional college and professional boundaries. They will be able to work with technical, business, and design professionals, and will be able to integrate material from these various disciplines. They will be able to adapt their thinking based on how different societies, cultures, genders, ethnic groups and professions approach technology and information and use it in different ways.
2. Demonstrate competence with a broad range of digital technologies. In many cases, they will be able to apply multiple approaches to a problem as practiced by different professions. They will demonstrate theoretical and practical understanding of web page design, web programming, computational thinking, database systems, information management, and digital systems security.
3. Apply design thinking to technological problems. They will demonstrate familiarity with design thinking and the relationship between design and technology. They will be able to help web designers and programmers make their technology easier to use.
4. Apply critical evaluation and problem solving skills to organizational needs. They will be able to analyze customer needs, consider the impact on various diverse groups or cultures, evaluate solutions from a variety of technical and design viewpoints, and solve a variety of technical and design problems.
5. Demonstrate effective communication skills, both verbally and in written form. They will be able to communicate as individuals or as part of a project team, and they will be able to communicate with technical, business, and design professionals.
6. Participate in, and lead, multidisciplinary project teams. They will demonstrate theoretical and practical understanding of requirements engineering, project management, and team dynamics. They will demonstrate practical experience working with students from another department on a multidisciplinary project team.

University Requirements

All students in a bachelor's degree program at Kent State University must complete the following university requirements for graduation.

NOTE: University requirements may be fulfilled in this program by specific course requirements. Please see Program Requirements for details.

Destination Kent State: First Year Experience	1
Course is not required for students with 25 transfer credits, excluding College Credit Plus, or age 21+ at time of admission.	
Diversity Domestic/Global (DIVD/DIVG)	2 courses
Students must successfully complete one domestic and one global course, of which one must be from the Kent Core.	
Experiential Learning Requirement (ELR)	varies
Students must successfully complete one course or approved experience.	
Kent Core (see table below)	36-37
Writing-Intensive Course (WIC)	1 course
Students must earn a minimum C grade in the course.	
Upper-Division Requirement	39 (or 42)
Students must successfully complete 39 upper-division (numbered 30000 to 49999) credit hours to graduate. Students in a B.A. and/or B.S. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences must complete 42 upper-division credit hours.	
Total Credit Hour Requirement	120
Some bachelor's degrees require students to complete more than 120 credit hours.	

Kent Core Requirements

Kent Core Composition (KCMP)	6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning (KMCR)	3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (KHUM/KFA) (min one course each)	9
Kent Core Social Sciences (KSS) (must be from two disciplines)	6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (KBS/KLAB) (must include one laboratory)	6-7
Kent Core Additional (KADL)	6
Total Credit Hours:	**36-37**

Program Requirements
Major Requirements

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Major Requirements (courses count in major GPA)		
CIS 24053	INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER APPLICATIONS	3
CIS 24065	WEB PROGRAMMING	3
CIS 44043	DATA MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE I	3
EMAT 13210	DESIGN PROCESSES AND PRINCIPLES	3
EMAT 15310	CREATIVE CODING	3
EMAT 34410	DIGITAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND PROCESSING	3
EMAT 41510	PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TEAM DYNAMICS (WIC)	3
EMAT 41610	DIGITAL SYSTEMS SECURITY	3
ENGR 46411	REQUIREMENTS ENGINEERING AND ANALYSIS	3
Additional Requirements (courses do not count in major GPA)		

Code	Title	Credits
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
College of Communication and Information Core Electives, choose from the following:		9
CCI 12001	PHOTOGRAPHY	
COMM 15000	INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN COMMUNICATION (KADL)	
COMM 35852	INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (DIVG)	
JMC 20001	MEDIA, POWER AND CULTURE (DIVD) (KSS)	
JMC 21008	SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIES	
LIS 30010	INFORMATION FLUENCY IN THE WORKPLACE AND BEYOND	
UXD 20001	INTRODUCTION TO USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN	
VCD 13000	DESIGN: PRINCIPLES, PROCESSES AND PRACTICE	
Kent Core Composition		6
Kent Core Mathematics and Critical Reasoning		3
Kent Core Humanities and Fine Arts (minimum one course from each)		9
Kent Core Social Sciences (courses from two curricular areas)		6
Kent Core Basic Sciences (must include one laboratory)		6-7
Kent Core Additional		6
General Electives (total credit hours depends on earning 120 credit hours, including 39 upper-division credit hours) [2]		47
Minimum Total Credit Hours:		120

[1] Minimum C grade required in EMAT 41510 to fulfill the writing-intensive requirement.

[2] The following courses are recommended electives to fulfill the Experiential Learning Requirement: EMAT 40999 or EMAT 49992.

Graduation Requirements

Minimum Major GPA	Minimum Overall GPA
2.250	2.000

Roadmap

This roadmap is a recommended semester-by-semester plan of study for this major. However, courses designated as critical (!) must be completed in the semester listed to ensure a timely graduation.

Semester One		Credits
UC 10097	DESTINATION KENT STATE: FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE	1
College of Communication and Information Core Electives		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Electives		3
	Credit Hours	16
Semester Two		
CIS 24053	INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER APPLICATIONS	3
EMAT 13210	DESIGN PROCESSES AND PRINCIPLES	3
College of Communication and Information Core Electives		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
	Credit Hours	15
Semester Three		
CIS 24065	WEB PROGRAMMING	3

College of Communication and Information Core Electives		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
	Credit Hours	15
Semester Four		
EMAT 15310	CREATIVE CODING	3
EMAT 34410	DIGITAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND PROCESSING	3
Kent Core Requirement		3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Electives		3
	Credit Hours	15
Semester Five		
CIS 44043	DATA MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE I	3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Electives		9
	Credit Hours	15
Semester Six		
EMAT 41510	PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TEAM DYNAMICS (WIC)	3
Kent Core Requirement		3
General Electives		9
	Credit Hours	15
Semester Seven		
ENGR 46411	REQUIREMENTS ENGINEERING AND ANALYSIS	3
General Electives		12
	Credit Hours	15
Semester Eight		
EMAT 41610	DIGITAL SYSTEMS SECURITY	3
General Electives		11
	Credit Hours	14
	Minimum Total Credit Hours:	120