
PROGRAM STATEMENT

PRINT NAME

CONTRACT OPTION

CONTRACT TITLE/DISCIPLINES

CONTRACT TITLE

New Page 11 of the IS Handbook (11/4/2010)

Criteria for an acceptable contract title:

- Descriptive, yet concise
- Accurately conveys the contents or purpose of the proposed course of study
- Professional
- Contract title does not duplicate the title of a major, option, or minor offered by PSU

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Your essay must be signed by your major advisor before the paper copy is submitted to the IS Council. An electronic/eMailed signature is acceptable if the advisor attests to having read and approved it.

In addition to submitting the signed copy, you must e-Mail it to the IS Council at: is-council@plymouth.edu. Include in the e-Mail: 1) your application (p. 9); 2) your program statement (p.11); 3) your curriculum planning guide (p. 13 or 15). These forms are available on the IS homepage: <http://www.plymouth.edu/interdisc/index.html>.

NOTE: If your initial application is not accepted, you will be given specific feedback and firm deadlines to which you must adhere if you wish to have it reconsidered by the Council.

Guidelines for organizing your essay:

A good program statement is a clear and concise essay. It does not include extraneous information and it uses a logical sequencing of ideas in appropriately developed paragraphs. It contains no errors in spelling, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and other areas of proper language. It follows typical formatting: 1" margins and a 10-12 point font size. It should be between 500-1000 words.

- **Explore how you arrived at the decision to develop an IS major.** What is the main focus of your major? What are the ideas and/or issues that your major will address? Why are other majors on campus not appropriate for addressing these?
- **Explain your major.** What are the goals and objectives of your major? How do they link with the goals you have for your future, including your career plans?
- **Assess the courses included in your contract.** For contract courses that you have already completed or in which you are currently enrolled, explain how each course contributed to your major and describe specific assignments or topics that the course covered which are important to your program. For contract courses which you plan to take in the future, explain how the course descriptions tie in with your major. If necessary, you may discuss other undergraduate courses that you have taken or plan to take which are not in your contract, but which contribute to your major program.
- **Conclude** how you think your experience in the IS program differs or will differ from the experience of completing a major within a single discipline used in your contract? What do you think will be the challenges and opportunities presented by undertaking an interdisciplinary major?

Permission release for the option to use this IS Program Statement as an example in future publications (your name and personal information will not be included):

SIGNATURE

DATE