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UIS adding new undergrad degree program

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The University of Illinois Springfield is adding a 23rd undergraduate degree program that is expected to attract 25 students next year.

The state Board of Higher Education approved the Management Information Systems bachelor's degree for UIS at its meeting in Chicago on Tuesday.

The undergraduate major is designed to provide students with a balance of technical skills and business knowledge and to prepare them for employment in private and public sectors in a changing global economy.

"College students today are interested in interactive learning," said Rassule Hadidi, chairman of the Management Information Systems Department at UIS. "The blended delivery of this program facilitates and enhances interactivity."

Students will attend face-to-face classes every other week with instruction online during the weeks that classes do not meet in person.

Hadidi said the blended nature of the program makes it suitable not only for Springfield-area students, but also for those who live within a reasonable driving distance, such as Bloomington, Danville, Edwardsville and Peoria.

The university expects 25 students to major in MIS in the first year and up to 60 students to be enrolled over the next five years. UIS will begin offering the degree in the fall of 2010, but students can start taking classes for the major now.

UIS has offered a master of science in Management Information Systems since 1985 with 42 degrees awarded in fiscal year 2008. The master's program has a 100 percent placement record within the field for graduates.

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