Middle Georgia State College  
New Degree and/or Major  
Proposal Form

Instructions: All degree and/or major proposals must be signed by the Chair and Dean and submitted to the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Faculty Initiating Request: Dr. Kevin Floyd  
Submission Date: 10/28/2014

Department/School: Information Technology

Effective Date: Fall 2015  
Degree: Master of Science in Information Technology

Major(s): Information Technology

Provide a description of the new degree and/or major exactly as it will appear in the catalog:

The Master of Science in Information Technology requires students to complete 30 hours of graduate coursework. The first 15 hours provide students with knowledge in core information technologies in leadership, strategic planning, and research. Students can then focus on one area of study to enhance their set of skills and knowledge. These areas of study are Information Security and Digital Forensics and Health Informatics.

The courses in the program emphasize leadership abilities, critical thinking, problem solving, decision-making, and interpersonal and communication skills. Career success through lifelong learning, professional development, and research is stressed at all levels of the curriculum. The program is designed to produce graduates prepared to assume leadership duties in the field of Information Technology in general as well as in specific work settings such as healthcare and information security.

The Master of Science in Information Technology is an accelerated program that will be offered completely online as well as in a hybrid/blended modality consisting of face-to-face classes and online instruction. It is designed to fit the lifestyle of busy, working professionals.

[Signatures and dates]

Rev. 9.29.14  
Page 1 of 2
Program Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- Identify and apply current research and data analysis methods.
- Identify and apply leadership theories and strategic planning concepts in the field of information technology.
- Use appropriate project management methods in the creation of an effective IT project plan.
- Identify and incorporate relevant ethical, legal, security, policies, and social issues in a technology environment.
- Demonstrate the ability to lead teams effectively to identify and develop IT-based solutions.
- Demonstrate effective communication, both orally and in writing.

How does this program align with the Mission of Middle Georgia State College?

The Master of Science in Information Technology is a unique collegiate program in the Middle Georgia region that fulfills MGA's mission to provide "high quality programs connected to community needs." It will also help establish MGA as a leader for the "economic" life of central Georgia.

The program aligns with and is complementary to Middle Georgia State College's ABET accredited Bachelor of Science in Information Technology housed in the School of Information Technology.

This program will be uniquely positioned in Central Georgia to address the mission and to meet the needs of both 21st century student and employer. It will fuel the regional economy by producing top-quality graduates who will be successful in 21st century careers. The Master of Science in Information Technology will enable IT professionals with baccalaureate degrees to pursue advanced specialized training in the areas of information security and digital forensics and health informatics.

Will the new degree and/or major(s) require new faculty lines or other institutional resources?  
- [ ] Yes  
- [ ] No

Explain:

The School of Information Technology currently has 9 full-time faculty qualified to teach courses in the Master of Science in IT program. At least two (2) additional faculty members will be required. Initially, there will be 10 courses (one section each) required each year in the program. With the new hires, there is no anticipated impact on current faculty workloads. In addition, the School of Information Technology has several qualified part-time instructors with terminal degrees (Doctorate in IT or IS) that can be used if necessary.

Attach appropriate USG Formal Proposal for a new Degree Program form (http://www.usg.edu/academic_programs/new_programs).