

## Comprehensive Program Review Report

**Institution:** Middle Georgia State University

**Academic Program Name:** Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT)

**CIP Code:** 11.1099

**College or School:** School of Computing

**Department:** Department of Information Technology

**Date of Last Internal Review:** N/A

**Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement):** N / A

**Current Date:** 3/5/2020

**Provost Response:** *Provide a summary related to the program productivity, viability, and quality. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The MSIT has shown significant positive enrollment growth since it started in 2016. Starting enrollment in Fall 2016 was 53 graduate students. As of Fall 2019, the enrollment was 138 graduate students. MSIT has shown an excellent growth of 37.57% over the last 4 years, with enrollment increases exceedingly every year.

The outstanding work of the dean, chair, and faculty members shows within the program productivity. Graduation rate in AY 2017 was 12; whereas today the graduation rate for AY 2019 is 54. The MSIT is a viable degree for today's work environment. Graduate students are well trained and better prepared for their future careers in this every changing technology world we live in today.

The MSIT program is accredited as part of Middle Georgia State University. In 2019, MSIT earned an additional designation specifically for the MSIT concentration in Cyber Security and Forensics through the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (NSA/DHS). The designation is valid through 2024. This is another extraordinary milestone for the MSIT program.

### Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

- Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.
- Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

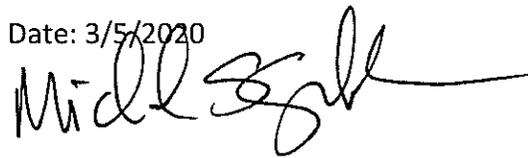
Program PARTIALLY MEETS Institution's Criteria and will be re-evaluated in \_\_\_\_\_.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

- Program will be placed on a monitoring status.
- Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
- Program will be deactivated.
- Program will be voluntarily terminated.
- Other (identify/add text):

Provost or VPAA Signature: Dr. Michael Gibbons on behalf of the Provost, Dr. Jon Anderson

Date: 3/5/2020



**Comprehensive Program Review Report****Academic Program Name: MSIT****College or School: Computing****Department: Information Technology****Date of Last Internal Review: March 2020****Outcome of Previous Program Review (brief narrative statement, if applicable):****Current Date: 3/3/2020**

**Executive Summary:** *Provide a summary related to the program productivity, viability, and quality. If this is the initial review of the program address how the program is/is not meeting the enrollment and credit hour projects contained in the original program proposal. Include a statement of plans for action based on the overall categorical summation contained in the next section.*

The Department of IT will continue to offer the MSIT in the existing online eight-week format. The success of the program has been the quality, flexibility, and affordability compared to similar programs across the nation. We will aim to grow enrollment through academic excellence, continuing to raise national awareness and reputation, and effective recruiting efforts. We will maintain our prestigious accreditations that our programs have earned. We will continue to engage alumni, current, and future students through outreach efforts, service, scholarship, and teaching. We will monitor changes in technology to adapt to needs for our students and the community.

The MSIT program is the driving force in overall graduate enrollment at MGA. The program thrives under innovation, excellent leadership, and a dedicated and hard-working faculty. Think about adding an additional SLO to the master's degree, as discussed this year, and continue to collect consistent data on the two current SLOs, especially in this very critical spring 2020 cycle in preparation for a SACSCOC visit. As the ITEC 6900 pilot is taught for the second time in spring 2020, keep up the good, faculty-led work on its restructuring. Work on tracking graduates and where they are working." Dr. Kevin Cantwell, Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies



### Categorical Summation

Check any of the following to categorically describe action(s) the institution will take concerning this program.

Program MEETS Institution's Criteria

- Program is critical to the institutional mission and will be retained.
- Program is critical to the institutional mission and is growing or a high demand field and thus will be enhanced.

Program DOES NOT MEET Institution's Criteria

- Program will be placed on a monitoring status.
- Program will undergo substantive curricular revisions.
- Program will be deactivated.
- Program will be voluntarily terminated.
- Other (identify/add text):

Academic Dean Signature: Dr. Alex Koohang



Dean of Graduate Studies Signature (when applicable): Dr. Kevin Cantwell

Date: 3/3/2020



3/5/20



## Comprehensive Program Review

**FY 2019 – 2020**

**Institution:** Middle Georgia State University

**Academic Program:** Master of Science Information Technology

**College or School:** School of Computing

**Department:** Department of Information Technology

**CIP Code:** 11.1099

**Date of Last Internal Review:** 2018

**Faculty Completing Report:** Johnathan Yerby

**Current Date:** November 7, 2019

### 5 Year Enrollment by Campus and Graduation Trends

#### Enrollment

Campus	Fall 2015	Fall 2016	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2019	5 YR Growth
Macon	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Cochran	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Warner Robins	N/A	0	1	0	0	-100.00%
Dublin	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Eastman	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Online	N/A	53	72	129	138	37.57%
Off Campus	N/A	0	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	N/A	53	73	129	138	37.57%

#### Graduates

AY 2015	AY 2016	AY 2017	AY 2018	AY 2019	5 YR Growth
N/A	0	12	30	54	112.13%

**Include a narrative that discusses:**

- Program purpose and mission
- Align of program mission with department, school, and institutional mission
- Program age, tracks, concentrations, etc
- Accreditation information/status
- Method(s) of delivery
- Changes since last review
- Benchmarks of progress
- Plans for action
- Shifting trends and market forces that may impact program demand

***\*The narrative should be as direct as possible and no longer than three pages.***

The School of Computing, Department of Information Technology's Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) program is high quality, innovative, flexible, and convenient. The Department of IT is dedicated to developing degree programs to meet existing and future professional needs relating to technology. The Department produces graduates with a diverse set of skills and experiences, which prepares them to take on IT and leadership professional roles. Master of Science in IT students focus on critical thinking, research, problem solving, ethics, decision making, applied knowledge, as well as interpersonal and communication skills.

We anticipated that, after graduation, our graduates will:

1. Assume productive roles in IT-leadership positions, such as chief information security officer, investigator, analyst, project and program manager, and other leadership roles within information technology in healthcare, government, education, business and industry in the Middle Georgia region, throughout the state and nationally; and
2. Pursue life-long learning and engage in research in new and emerging and innovative technologies, enabling them to adapt and grow as organizational responsibilities change.

The Department of Information Technology's MSIT program goals focus on what graduates are expected to attain within a few years of graduation. A periodic review of the goals ensures that they remain consistent with the institutional mission and the needs of our constituents. The reviews include input from the School's advisory board, the use of an area employer survey, and the use of an alumni survey.

The Advisory Board of the School of Information Technology consists of professionals in the Information Technology field in our region. The Advisory Board meets twice yearly with the Dean, Associate Dean, Chair, and faculty members of the School. The advisory board communicates the needs of the IT community in our region, strengths and weaknesses of IT graduates regarding their employment, and the anticipated needs of IT organizations.

An employer survey is conducted every five years. This survey provides the Department with information about the skills required to support organizations. Survey results are shared with the Advisory Board and the faculty members. The results will be used for evaluation of the program and any

revisions of the program goals, student learning outcomes, and the MSIT curriculum/courses. The first employer survey will be conducted in Fall 2019.

Every five years, a survey will be administered to the MSIT alumni. This survey will gather information regarding the positions in which the alumni have worked since graduation. It will also contain questions about additional educational opportunities that the alumni have pursued since graduation.

The MSIT program 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. For the remaining 15 hours students concentrate on one area of study to enhance their set of skills and knowledge. Students also have the option to forgo a concentration and take 15 hours of non-core graduate courses that suit them personally and professionally.

The MSIT program offers concentrations in Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics, Critical Infrastructure Management, Software Development, Health Informatics, Social Media, and Data Analytics.

Career success through lifelong learning, professional development, and research is stressed in the curriculum. The program is designed to produce graduates prepared to take on leadership duties in the field of Information Technology.

The MSIT program outcomes state that students will:

- 1: Produce an information technology annotated bibliography covering the subdomains of current & emerging issues, leadership, and project management.
- 2: Produce an original work of research based on your concentration.

The MSIT program is offered fully online in an eight-week session format, which makes it possible to complete the program in one year. The MSIT began in 2017 with concentrations in Cybersecurity & Digital Forensics, Software Development, and Health Informatics. In 2018 we introduced a new concentration in Critical Infrastructure Management. In 2019 we added Social Media and Data Analytics.

The enrollment for the MSIT is exemplary. From the first year enrollment tripled expectations of 15 students, with the first 53 graduate students being accepted into the MSIT program. Since 2017, enrollment has grown 260% to 138 students. Of the initial 53 students enrolled, 12 completed their Masters degree in 2017. In AY 2019 we experienced substantial growth of graduates with 54 MSIT students fulfilling their degree requirements.

The MSIT program is accredited as part of Middle Georgia State University. In 2019 we earned an additional designation specifically for the MSIT concentration in Cyber Security and Forensics through the National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security (NSA/DHS). The designation is valid through 2024.

Success is measured by examining graduation rates, growth or acquisition of skills or learning outcomes, and after graduation students working towards their professional aspirations. The Department conducts alumni and employer surveys every five years, plus maintains connections to alumni through online networks. The MSIT program enrollment, graduation rate, student professional success stories, national reputation, and reach has increased over the past three years.

The Department of IT will continue to offer the MSIT in the existing online eight-week format. The success of the program has been the quality, flexibility, and affordability compared to similar programs across the nation. We will aim to grow enrollment through academic excellence, continuing to raise national awareness and reputation, and effective recruiting efforts. We will maintain our prestigious accreditations that our programs have earned. We will continue to engage alumni, current, and future students through outreach efforts, service, scholarship, and teaching. We will monitor changes in technology to adapt to needs for our students and the community.

## IERB Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation

**Date Reviewed: 2-28-2020**

**Program Reviewed: MS Information Technology**

**Contextual Notes:** Summarize any demographic or environmental factors described in the introduction that might significantly impact assessment of the program

The MS program is offered online only. Given the online component of the program, this eliminates any demographic or environmental factors that may significantly impact assessment of the program. The program is offered over eight-week sessions, which makes it possible to complete it in one year and effectively reduces any financial barriers to entry.

Area of Focus	Exemplary Area	Satisfactory Area	Area of Concern	No Evidence	Notes
<b>Enrollment</b>	<i>This program has significantly positive enrollment trends and robust credit hour production.</i>	<i>This program has stable or moderately positive enrollment trends and healthy credit hour production.</i>	<i>This program has negative enrollment trends and weak credit hour production.</i>		Overall enrollment growth has been positive. In fact, growth has been strictly monotonically increasing since the inception of the program.
<b>Graduation Trends</b> USG benchmark:  <b>Bachelor's Degrees:</b> 10 graduates/year <b>Graduate, Associate's or Certificates:</b> 5 graduates/year  <small>Programs falling under these benchmarks are designated as "low performing"</small>	<i>This Master of Science Degree has greatly exceeded the USG benchmark of an increase of 5 graduates per year.</i>				The overall growth in graduates over five years has been 350% (although enrollment only started three years ago, effectively making this a two-year total increase in graduates).

## **IERB Comprehensive Program Review Rubric and Evaluation**

### **Program Strengths of Note:**

- There is a significant increase in graduates over the past two years.
- There are no demographic or environmental barriers affecting growth in this program, and the curriculum can be completed within one year.
- The robust growth in enrollment is an additional area of strength.

### **Areas of Concern:**

- There are no options for traditional face-to-face students. The program is strictly online. Some students may prefer a traditional, face-to-face option.

### **Other Comments:**

- The program seems to keep a constant eye on the hiring trends and needs in the area.