ISEM FAQS (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q1: How would you characterize ISEM?

Answer: ISEM is a flexible, interdisciplinary Master's Program with a focus on Information Systems, Engineering and Management. Today, IS has evolved to provide important technology resources to organizations. ISEM is a program that is especially suitable to students who are seeking career change and / or career enrichment. If you are seeking increased exposure to any one of the focus areas or an overall balanced exposure to all, ISEM is a good fit for you.

Q2: Do I need a technical degree or background to join the ISEM Master's Program?

Answer: No, you do not. Since its inception in 2009, ISEM has welcomed and successfully graduated incoming students from the law, pharmacy, health sciences and other "non-IS" disciplines.

Q3: Why ISEM?

Answer: Well, just look around you! Digital technologies are becoming all the more numerous and a part of our daily lives. "Digital Transformation" is everywhere. Accompanying this "digital normalcy" in our lives is an increased complexity of devices that are interconnected, data driven and running artificial intelligence and learning algorithms. The combined hardware and software devices now watch us, talk to us and monitor our daily lives. If you are interested in how these systems and devices are "put together" and made to work reliably then ISEM is a good program for you.

Q4: How many Courses are needed for an MS in ISEM?

Answer: 12 courses (36 semester hours, 3 semester hours per course). This is typically a two-year program if you take two (2) courses per semester over six (6) semesters.

Q5: What are the required "Core" courses in ISEM

Answer: ISEM "Core" Courses, which should all be taken in the first three (3) semesters, are:

Semester	Core Course Number and Title
1	ISEM 500 Strategic Planning for Digital Transformation MGMT 510 Business Strategy and Management Principles
2	ISEM 540 Enterprise Architecture and Integration ISEM 530 Systems Engineering Principles
3	"Pick 1" from the following list of five (5) courses: ISEM 502 User-Centered Design ISEM 534 Database Design and Management ISEM 551 Web-based Software Engineering ISEM 570 IT Quality Assurance MGMT 511 Digital and Global Enterprises

For additional details on individual courses, please view the ISEM Course List in the HU Graduate Catalog.

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Q6: What is an "Individualized" Concentration?

Answer: All incoming ISEM students are *automatically* enrolled in the "Individualized" Concentration. In this Concentration, you are positioned to take the ISEM "Core" courses in your first three (3) semesters. Then, following completion of "Core" courses, you are then free to take any other available Elective courses within ISEM or other HU Graduate Programs. As a student, you will officially always be in the "Individualized" Concentration.

Q7: Can I "concentrate" in more focused technical ana management areas?

Answer: Yes. In addition to the "Individualized" Concentration, ISEM offers four (4) other "Concentrations" that are represented by a focused set of courses <u>plus</u> a Capstone Project in that chosen Concentration. In addition to your ISEM diploma, these four Concentrations yield a portable, digital credential ("digital badge") at completion. Currently defined Concentrations are:

- Artificial Intelligence for Business
- Cloud Computing for Business
- Blockchain and Cryptocurrency
- Management Science, Strategy and Technology.

The best source for Concentrations details is the HU ISEM public website, as new Concentrations may change over time. The URL for the most current Concentrations detail is:

https://www.harrisburgu.edu/programs/ms-information-systems-engineering-and-management/

Q8: Can I take Analytics, PMGT or other courses while I am in the ISEM Program?

Answer: Yes. Analytics, Program Management and any other HU <u>Graduate Program</u> courses are available as <u>Elective</u> courses within ISEM.

Q9: Can I finish the program in one year?

Answer: "Yes" if your schedule and applicable visa requirements allow. Full time students can finish ISEM's 12 courses in 3 semesters if you are allowed and able to take 4 courses per semester. As stated again below, four courses per semester is the allowable maximum value.

Q10: How many online courses can I take in one semester?

Answer: While on a student visa, you can take only one (1) online course per semester. Visa students typically take two (2) courses per semester – one "online" and one "Executive" format. If you do not have a visa requirement, then you are not limited.

Q11: How is CPT related to my coursework?

Answer: It is your (student) responsibility to take courses that support and enrich your CPT work. You should align your classroom projects to your CPT as much as possible. Also, you should ensure that your Capstone Project supports your CPT work. For example, if your CPT work is in security, then your Capstone Project should also be in security.

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Q12: How many credits can I transfer and how does this transfer happen?

Answer: You can transfer up to six (6) semester hours only (2 courses) of graduate work completed at another university

To initiate credit transfer, please provide the HU Records and Registration office with:

1. An official transcript (from where you wish to transfer from), and
2. An HU GR "Transfer Credit Request" form.
3. Send these two (2) items to this e-mail address: RegHelp@HarrisburgU.edu

Once received, the Records and Registration office will review your materials and determine if your requested courses qualify for transfer. You will be notified as soon as possible.

Q13: Are weekly synchronous sessions through MS Teams and Canvas required?

Answer: If you are enrolled in a course, you are expected to participate in that course regardless of whether it is "in person" or "remote". Most courses have a participation component. If you are not present, then you are not participating, and you should expect a grade that reflects that participation. These sessions are recorded and can be reviewed later in case you miss one, but you should not expect to take an entire course by listening to its recordings.

Q14: As a visa student, what should I do if I need to travel overseas (e.g., India) during a semester?

Answer: If you must travel to India then you must do the following:

1. Inform the HU DSO office (email: DSO@harrisburgu.edu) about it with valid reasons and obtain their permission

2. Inform the relevant faculty to obtain their permission

3. You cannot ask for special favors. You must complete all classroom assignments as scheduled. Most countries are fully connected to the Internet, so there is no excuse for late or no assignment submissions.

4. Exceptions to this policy are granted only for severe situations such as death in the immediate family and must be submitted to the DSO and your Program Director with proper documentation

Caution: Students have been dismissed from HU because they took an overseas trip, did not inform anyone about the trip, then received a failing grade. These situations typically cannot be addressed "after the fact".

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Q15: What is the "Capstone" Project?

Answer: Your "Capstone" is comprised of two (2) courses: GRAD 695 "Research Methodology and Writing" and then either GRAD 699 "Graduate Thesis" or ISEM 699 "Applied Project in Information Systems Engineering and Management".:

The Capstone Project is your "Master's Thesis". The two (2) required courses are taken over two (2) semesters and <u>cannot</u> be taken in the same semester. Your Capstone Project is typically associated with your CPT assignment. And, if you have selected a Concentration, your Capstone project must be in that Concentration topic.

Q16: Regarding the "Capstone", what is the difference between an "Applied Project" and a "Thesis"?

Answer: A "Thesis" entails conducting original research to address a research problem identified by the student. (e.g., what are the costs and benefits of cognitive cities?). An "Applied Project" allows a student to pursue a practical area of interest (e.g., building a prototype or a game/simulation) that is within the broad scope of ISEM. A faculty member always supervises the Capstone study regardless of whether it is a "Thesis" or "Applied Project".

Q17: If I am in need of Support Services, is there an easy way to find them?

Answer: Yes, HU has recently launched a new "Support Portals" web link. It is a centralized website that points you to multiple HU Services. The web address is:

<div align="center">

[Support Portals - Harrisburg University](#)

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The "Support Portal" provides easy access to contact points for:

- International Student Office (ISO)
- Records and Registration (R&R)
- Graduate Student Services
- Library
- HU Business Office
- IT Help Desk
- Undergraduate Student Services (for Undergrads only)