

IT Strategic Plan FY2015

Approved by IT: October 17, 2014

Vision Statement

In Illinois, IT = ISU

Mission Statement

Through excellence in education and research, we develop highly competent professionals who contribute to and succeed in the rapidly evolving field of information technology.

IT Strategic Goals

- 1. IT provides premier undergraduate programs combining theory and practice.**
- 2. IT provides graduate programs that have a statewide, national, and international reputation for excellence.**
- 3. IT faculty and students will engage in high quality research and scholarship.**
- 4. IT provides outreach initiatives that are mutually beneficial to the academic community and public/private sectors.**
- 5. IT provides state-of-the-art environments for learning and research.**
- 6. IT develops and maintains meaningful relationships with internal and external constituencies.**

IT Strategies and Actions in support of Goals

- 1. IT provides premier undergraduate programs combining theory and practice.**

Strategy 1A: IT will maintain high-quality and up-to-date undergraduate programs

Action1Ai: Continue to use accreditation and assessment to promote quality and rigor in undergraduate programs.

Action1Aii: Conduct a 5-year curriculum review process to keep the programs up-to-date.

Action1Aiii: Complete curricular work resulting from curricular mapping activity.

Action 1Aiv: IT will continue to develop 1-hour and topic courses to teach students cutting edge technologies.

- Strategy 1B: IT will maintain a commitment to the Honors Program and to undergraduate research.
- Action1Bi: Recruit honors students.
Action1Bii: Engage 10% of undergraduate students in grant and research activities.
- Strategy 1C: IT will sustain a high level of internship placements for IT students.
- Action1Ci: Work with BIAC/TAB to maintain a database of internship providers, task postings and evaluations.
Action1Cii: Expand international internships for students.
Action1Ciii: Increase faculty involvement in the internship program.
- Strategy 1D: IT will promote diverse educational opportunities as a means of broadening life experience and cross-cultural understanding for students and faculty.
- Action1Di: Continue to establish international exchange programs
Action1Dii: Develop articulation agreements with minority institutions.
Action1Diii: Devise and implement strategies to recruit and retain underrepresented students.
- Strategy 1E: IT will continue and expand participation in general education programs through curricula offerings.
- Action1Ei: Design a (General Education) recruitment course.
- Strategy 1F: IT will continue to update ASPT policies to reward activities that promote a premiere undergraduate education experience.
- Action1Fi: Continue to recognize and support faculty who engage in “scholarship of teaching and learning” projects.
- Strategy 1G: IT will pursue alternate delivery of courses to meet global changes and market conditions.
- Action1Gi: Continue to improve and expand the availability of online courses.
Action1Gii: Identify opportunities to offer online programs.
- Strategy 1H: IT will maintain highly qualified faculty to teach state-of-the-art technologies in the classrooms.
- Action1Hi: Encourage and support ongoing professional development activities.

- Strategy 1I: IT will improve the quality of students in its majors.
- Action1Ii: Continue to provide targeted recruiting for high ACT and Honors students.
 - Action1Iii: Re-direct (where possible) scholarship opportunities to attract high quality incoming freshman.
 - Action1Iiii: Consider adjusting admission standards for incoming students.
 - Action1Iiv: Advertise IT program to local community colleges and high schools.
- Strategy 1J: IT will enhance its support system for students.
- Action1Ji: Develop orientation materials for incoming students.
 - Action1Jii: Explore approaches to improve instructor help for students.
 - Action1Jiii: Continue to support tutoring and debugging services.
 - Action1Jiv: Create an evaluation and quality improvement mechanism for IT advisement processes.
- Strategy 1K: IT will work to instill professionalism and life-long learning in its students.
- Action1Ki: Continue to provide support to the IT student club.
 - Action1Kii: Support and encourage student participation in registered IT student clubs and organizations.
- Strategy 1L: IT will continue to increase/maintain the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates
- Action1Li: Continue to implement and improve current recruitment plan.
 - Action1Lii: Write grant proposals to improve the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of underrepresented students.
 - Action1Liii: Research strategies and develop a plan for student retention.
 - Action1Liv: Develop effective strategies for dropout prevention

2. IT provides graduate programs that have a statewide, national, and international reputation for excellence.

- Strategy 2A: IT will continue to enhance its graduate curricula and programs.
- Action 2Ai: Identify a core competency area within Computer Science and design a graduate sequence around it.
 - Action 2Aii: Continue to explore the possibility to establish a Master's in Computer Science.
 - Action 2Aiii: Continue to seek opportunities to establish a Ph.D. program.
 - Action 2Aiv: Explore the possibility of creating a 5-year combined bachelor's-master's program.
- Strategy 2B: IT will develop and deliver online programs in order to expand the cultural and demographic diversity of the student population.
- Action2Bi: Identify the sequences and/or certificates for online offering.
 - Action2Bii: Develop standards and practices for online courses.
 - Action2Biii: Allocate resources and provide mentoring for faculty to convert the selected classes to online version.

Strategy 2D: IT will continue to attract high-quality domestic and international graduate students to its program.

Action2Di: Develop new relationships with international universities.

Action2Dii: Develop a recruitment plan targeting high quality domestic and international students.

Action2Diii: Secure funds, such as assistantships, stipends, scholarships, federal work study and the like and expand outreach to local industry for funds to make our program more affordable and attractive.

Action2Div: Develop a plan to better publicize the IT graduate program and certificates.

Strategy 2E: IT will continue to promote the involvement of students in faculty research.

Action2Ei: Develop a plan to increase the number of students who take the thesis/project options instead of the course option.

Action2Eii: Create standardized high-level guidelines for the quality of theses and projects. Identify model theses/projects that illustrate these guidelines.

Action2Eiii: Create digital repository to host deliverables for all graduate projects and make them publicly accessible upon request.

Strategy 2F: IT will maintain the currency and relevancy of the programs.

Action2Fi: Systematically review the graduate courses as stated in the IT Bylaws.

Action2Fii: Establish connections with similar graduate programs, with the goal of keeping our program up-to-date and relevant.

3. IT faculty and students will engage in high quality research and scholarship.

Strategy 3A: IT will strengthen available resources for scholarship, research, sabbatical leaves, grant writing, professional activities, and other faculty development opportunities.

Action3Ai: Encourage sabbatical leaves for post-tenure faculty.

Action3Aii: Create short-term research support and professional development opportunities for tenure-line faculty.

Action3Aiii: Increase travel funds for faculty and students.

Action3Aiv: Establish/Increase funds for school level competitive grants and release time for external grant acquisition.

Action3Av: Develop an IT Colloquium.

Strategy 3B: IT faculty will participate in collaborative research projects.

Action3Bi: IT will provide incentives and ongoing support for interdisciplinary and internal/external collaborative research projects.

Strategy 3C: IT will reward faculty through ASPT process for quality research and scholarship.

Action3Ci: Recognize faculty for disseminating research through peer-reviewed publications.

Action3Cii: Recognize faculty for securing internal and external grants.

- Action3Ciii: Recognize faculty for participating as officers or members of editorial teams, chairing conference sessions, reviewing research articles, etc., with state, national, and international conferences/journals
- Action3Civ: Recognize faculty for enabling graduate and undergraduate student participation in research.
- Action3Cv: Explore ways to recognize faculty for different levels of contribution in research, teaching and service.

4. IT provides outreach initiatives that are mutually beneficial to the academic community and public/private sectors.

Strategy 4A: IT will continue outreach activities and maintain and develop relationships with constituencies.

Action4Ai: Continue to have an annual celebration with departing grads

Strategy 4B: IT will plan and implement events and activities for IT faculty and students to share expertise with the local and regional community.

Action4Bi: Invite University and local community members to attend IT colloquia.

Action4Bii: Create IT “speakers bureau” and promote to local community organizations and schools.

Action4Biii: Develop a repository of projects from the community and local businesses for use in courses and/or individual student projects.

Action4Biv: Seek funding to continue offering high school IT Camp.

Strategy 4C: IT will increase enrollment in the newly created graduate certificate programs.

Action4Ci: Advertise the graduate certificates.

Strategy 4D: IT will encourage dissemination of knowledge through popular press.

Action4Di: Update our entries on the university experts list.

5. IT provides state-of-the-art environments for learning and research.

Strategy 5A: IT will encourage its faculty and staff to explore and use current and emerging technologies.

Action5Ai: Collaborate and participate on various college/university committees and technology groups.

Action5Aii: Retain/hire the staff necessary to recommend, obtain, install, and maintain the facilities and infrastructure for faculty and student use.

Action5Aiii: Improve and increase IT laboratory and collaborative work spaces within Old Union.

Action5Aiv: Continue to allocate funds to support equipment and other technology-related purchases and maintenance.

Action5Av: Allocate resources to promote the IT brand/image.

6. IT develops and maintains meaningful relationships with internal and external constituencies.

Strategy 6A: IT will develop events and programs that encourage IT alumni participation and support.

- Action6Ai: Continue to solidify meaningful relationships through the Telecommunications Advisory Board and the Business and Industry Advisory Council.
- Action6Aii: Continue producing IT Matters e-newsletters several times per year.
- Action6Aiii: Invite all or selected alumni to attend an event each year.
- Action6Aiv: Devise methods to prepare current students to become active alumni.
- Action6Av: Establish an annual reunion event for graduates who graduated, say, 20 years ago.
- Action6Avi: Seek support from selected alumni to establish endowed scholarships honoring Emeritus Faculty. (e.g., The Jan Cook or Dave Kephart Scholarship).
- Action 6Ag: Seek support from corporate partners and alumni to establish an endowed professorship (or endowed chair).

Strategy 6B: IT will build closer ties to local large corporate IT users and employers of our graduates.

- Action6Bi: Initiate an annual Business Round Table where IT corporate leaders are brought together to discuss and share thoughts on prominent IT issues, including private and public forums.
- Action6Bii: Devise informal methods for IT Director and faculty to interact with corporate IT leaders, e.g. golf outings, presentations, receptions, luncheons, etc.
- Action 6Biii: Create a program to encourage faculty to bring in guest speakers, and a speaker database for faculty to connect with potential speakers.

Strategy 6C: Determine high potential focus area(s) to attract corporate, governmental, and public interest.

- Action6Ci: Develop topics courses on emerging topics in IT.

Strategy 6D: IT will develop a marketing plan to promote better public awareness of IT programs and quality, and attract high-quality students and faculty.

- Action6Di: Continue to update the IT website with the primary objective of attracting, informing and engaging students, faculty, alums, donors, and corporate partners.
- Action6Dii: Determine ways to ensure that IT programs appear prominently in web searches (like Google) and college guides (like Peterson's).
- Action6Diii: Devise state-wide methods of advertising to raise our level of visibility (contest, commercials, billboards, news release, etc.)
- Action6Div: Develop set of promotional videos of faculty, students, employers, alumni, etc. for use on website, YouTube, Facebook, etc.
- Action6Dv: Establish an IT presence on Twitter and other social media.
- Action6Dvi: Allocate resources to promote the IT brand.
- Action6Dvii: Reach out to HS advisors and ISU tour guides to provide a better understanding of what we do.

Strategy 6E: Develop a formal IT Awards Reception for students, employers, donors, and parents.

- Action6Ei: Recognize local companies.
- Action6Eii: Encourage students to recognize faculty.
- Action6Eiii: Have clubs report on the year's activities.

