

### **Why were these program changes proposed, and who proposed them?**

The recent changes to the MSIT program – specifically the adjustments to the number of required core and elective credits – were made to improve accessibility and support student success. The previous structure often required a longer time to degree completion and resulted in higher costs, which created barriers for many students due to financial concerns and challenges with work-life balance.

These updates were driven by direct feedback from current students, as well as strong advocacy from staff, faculty, and leadership within the School of Engineering & Technology (SET). Since the program was originally designed several years ago, student needs and goals have evolved. These changes are intended to better align the program with students' career development paths and more realistic timelines for graduation.

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### **Who approved these program changes, and when were they approved?**

The MSIT program changes were reviewed and approved through a comprehensive academic governance process. Approvals were granted by the following individuals and committees: MSIT Graduate Program Chair; SET Assistant Dean; SET Dean; Academic Services Associate Director; Academic Policy & Curriculum Committee (APCC); Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (EVCAA); and the UW Graduate School.

These changes were officially approved on May 21, 2025.

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### **Do these changes affect the MSIT credential?**

No. The MSIT program remains a fully accredited, STEM-designated, and veteran-certified graduate credential. It continues to meet the rigorous academic standards expected across the UW system and beyond.

The updated curriculum does not diminish the value or recognition of the degree. The MSIT is equivalent in scope and quality to other graduate-level programs across the UW system and WA state:

- MS in Computer Science & Systems | UW Tacoma (40 – 45 credits)
  - Master of Cybersecurity & Leadership | UW Tacoma (40 credits)
  - MS in Cybersecurity Engineering | UW Bothell (46 – 49 credits)
  - MS in Information Management | UW Seattle (35 – 65 credits)
  - MS in Data Science | Seattle University (45 credits)
  - MS in Computer Science | Seattle University (45 – 49 credits)
  - MS in IT Management | Central Washington University (48 credits)
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### Did any courses get removed?

The total number of required credits for the MSIT has been reduced from 60 to 45.

TINFO 598: Master's Seminar (2 credits) has been removed from the curriculum. Students can still use independent study, internships, and their thesis/capstone project credits to connect with faculty for mentorship and guidance. These options can support students in submitting their capstone or thesis proposals and forming their Master's Supervisory Committee.

TINFO 504: IT Project Management (5 credits) has been removed from the core course requirements and is now categorized as a depth/commonly offered elective course.

Requirement Type	Previous Credits	Current Credits
Core Courses	20 credits	15 credits
Elective Courses	30 credits	20 credits
Thesis/Capstone Project	10 credits	10 credits
<b>Total</b>	<b>60 credits</b>	<b>45 credits</b>

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### How does this affect my degree-completion timeline?

The MSIT degree can now be completed in approximately 15 months – from Autumn (September 23) Quarter 2025 to the end of Winter (March 13) 2027.

See sample schedule comparisons below.

### **PREVIOUS Thesis/Capstone Project Sample Schedule**

<u>AUTUMN '24</u>	<u>WINTER '25</u>	<u>SPRING '25</u>	<u>AUTUMN '25</u>	<u>WINTER '26</u>	<u>SPRING '26</u>
TINFO 501 (5 credits)	TINFO 502 (3 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO 700/702 (7 credits)
TINFO 503 (5 credits)	TINFO 504 (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	
	TINFO 598 (2 credits)		TINFO	TINFO 700/702 (3 credits)	

### UPDATED Thesis/Capstone Project Sample Schedule

<u>AUTUMN '25</u>	<u>WINTER '26</u>	<u>SPRING '26</u>	<u>AUTUMN '26</u>	<u>WINTER '27</u>	<u>SPRING '27</u>
TINFO 501 (5 credits)	TINFO 502 (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO 700/702 (5 credits)	N/A
TINFO 503 (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO Elective (5 credits)	TINFO 700/702 (5 credits)		

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**Can you provide a breakdown of which courses are classified as required core courses and which are commonly offered as depth/elective courses?**

#### **Required Core Courses**

*\*All students take these courses regardless of degree-completion option.*

TINFO 501: Data Structures & Algorithms for IT – I (5 credits)

TINFO 502: Data Structures & Algorithms for IT – II (5 credits)

TINFO 503: Computer Networks for IT (5 credits)

#### **Commonly Offered Depth/Elective Courses**

*\*Students choose 20 credits.*

TINFO 504: IT Project Management (5 credits)

TINFO 510: Cloud Computing (5 credits)

TINFO 520: Cyber Forensics (5 credits)

TINFO 530: Machine Learning for IT (5 credits)

TINFO 540: Wireless & Mobile Network Security (5 credits)

TINFO 550: Human-Computer Interaction (5 credits)

TINFO 560: Internet of Things (5 credits)

TINFO 570: IT Automation (5 credits)

TINFO 580: Homeland Security (5 credits)

TINFO 590: DevOps (5 credits)

TINFO 600: Independent Study (1 – 5 credits)

TINFO 601: Internship (1 – 5 credits)

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**I'm a new student incoming for the 2025 – 2026 academic year. Will the schedule for Autumn Quarter and Winter Quarter stay the same?**

Yes and no.

All incoming students must register for TINFO 501 and TINFO 503 over Autumn Quarter 2025. Students will take TINFO 502 and TINFO elective to maintain a full-time schedule over Winter Quarter 2026.

Students may take classes part-time starting Winter Quarter 2026. Students begin their elective coursework after the credit core courses are completed.

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**How have these changes impacted MSIT tuition?**

The updated MSIT curriculum reduces the total number of required credits and shortens the time to degree completion. As a result, the program is now more affordable and accessible for all students – domestic, international, and out-of-state.

	<b><u>Previous</u></b>	<b><u>Updated</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated Savings</u></b>
<b><u>Domestic Students</u></b>	\$43,938	<b>\$29,292</b>	\$14,646
<b><u>INTL/Out-of-State</u></b>	\$76,284	<b>\$47,288</b>	\$28,996