

Submitted by: Acting Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Laurie Clabo

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TO THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
INFORMATION SCIENCE IN THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCES**

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors change the name of the Master of Science in Information Management to the Master of Science in Information Science in the School of Information Sciences, effective Winter of 2024.

**Background**

The School of Information Sciences (SIS) began its Master of Science in Information Management (MSIM) degree program in Winter 2018. The MSIM degree was initially designed to appeal to prospective graduate students with an interest in working in information management, separate from Library Science. As the program has been put into practice, we have recognized the importance of changing the degree name to Master of Science in Information Science (MSIS) and modifying the core course requirements of the program to reflect various areas of specializations in the degree, which are in addition to information management. Information Science is an established and growing field with a bright future. Information scientists work in all industries and all sectors at the intersection of people, technology, processes, and data that enable our data-driven society to function. Information scientists and practitioners use leading-edge technology solutions, oversee people and processes, and manage and utilize largescale datasets to support data-driven decision-making in all types of businesses, government agencies, and non-profit organizations across the world. Information scientists act as data stewards to ensure that information is accurate, current, complete, and secure.

We propose to change the name of the MSIM degree to the Master of Science in Information Science (MSIS), which is a broader term containing information management and other specialty areas. The current MSIM was initially designed to prepare students for positions in which they manage information. However, the degree, in practice, has a variety of identified specializations, only one of which is focused on information management. This MSIS degree focuses on key areas of the information sciences including information management and policy, web development, and user-experience. It focuses on areas of science and practice only offered by the School of Information Sciences. The MSIS covers core aspects of information science. In addition, the domain of information science aligns with our faculty expertise. Finally, the MSIS is offered, and awarded by, the School of Information Sciences. This degree program, although unique to WSU, is like degree programs offered at many other schools of information sciences.

**Program Description**

The MS in Information Science (MSIS) uniquely prepares students to be successful in data-intensive and user-centric environments. This degree prepares students to support data-driven

problem-solving and decision-making in diverse fields. With this degree, students will develop skills necessary to assess, adopt, and utilize information technologies to design positive user experiences and obtain useful insights.

Today, information is a crucial resource – be it social, mobile, cloud or big data. Information professionals with the expertise to find, capture, master, and deliver information are in higher demand than ever before. The MSIS provides the core analytical and problem-solving skills necessary to stay competitive and excel in today’s data-intensive, information-rich environments.

### **Approvals**

The proposal was approved by Faculty of the School of Information Sciences, the Interim Dean of the School of Information Sciences, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.