



Middle Georgia
State University

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING
Department of Information Technology

School of Computing

Department of Information Technology

Doctor of Science in Information Technology

Student Handbook

AY 2026-2027

Doctor of Science in Information Technology Student Handbook

Welcome to the School of Computing

Welcome to Middle Georgia State University's School of Computing (SoC). Our SoC offers programs at undergraduate and graduate levels at our Department of Information Technology (IT), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Department of Natural Sciences, and Department of Computer Science (CS).

Our Department of Information Technology has programs that prepare students to solve problems and apply new technologies within an increasingly interconnected and changing global environment. They emphasize career success through lifelong learning and professional development at all curriculum levels.

At the graduate level, our Department of IT offers a Master of Science in IT, and a Doctor of Science in IT.

School of Computing Leadership

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Our Vision

The School of Computing's vision is to be among the nation's premier institutions for providing quality education at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Our Mission

The mission of the School of Computing is to educate students in ways that lead to fulfilling careers and enhance the economic vitality of Central Georgia. The School provides its graduates with the analytical and problem-solving skills required to excel within an increasingly interconnected and changing global environment. The School pursues this mission as an educational leader in teaching excellence, scholarship, professional service, and community outreach.

Introduction

The Doctor of Science in Information Technology (DSIT) program at Middle Georgia State University is designed to develop advanced scholars and innovative leaders in the field of Information Technology. As a doctoral student, you will engage in rigorous coursework, cutting-edge research, and practical applications that challenge you to think critically, solve complex problems, and contribute meaningfully to the ever-evolving technological landscape. Doctoral study requires a commitment to scholarly inquiry, intellectual curiosity, and professional integrity, as well as the ability to synthesize and apply knowledge at the highest level. Throughout this journey, you will collaborate with faculty and peers, develop expertise in your chosen area of research, and produce research that advances both academic theory and industry practice. This program is demanding, but it is also an opportunity to deepen your expertise, expand your professional impact, and shape the future of information technology.

Students admitted in the School of Computing Doctor of Science in Information Technology program should first read the Middle Georgia State University's **Student Handbook**, as well as the **Graduate Studies Academic Catalog**. The documents can be found here:

- [MGA Student Handbook](#)
- [Office of Graduate Studies Academic Catalog](#)

Admission Requirements

Candidates for the Doctor of Science in Information Technology program, must meet the following [admission requirements](#):

- Master's degree from an institutionally accredited university in a related discipline closely related to Information Technology (e.g. Information Systems, Cybersecurity, Computer Science, etc.).
- 3.0 GPA on all graduate coursework.
- 3 to 5 years of relevant work experience required in a leadership or management role that includes formal supervision. **Technology leadership preferred.**

Additional Information About DSIT Program

- Since this program is highly competitive, **meeting basic admission requirements does not guarantee admission to the program.**

- The first residency course may not be covered by financial aid or other forms of financial support.
- Completed applications and required documents must be **received by March 1st** to be considered for the cohort.
- If you are re-applying to the program, all documents must be updated.
- No exceptions will be made for admission requirements not received by **March 1st**.

DSIT Program Handbook Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide doctoral students currently enrolled in the Doctor of Science in Information Technology program with specific information related to the program.

The student should read the general information about the DSIT program found here:

- [DSIT Program General Information](#)

Cohort-Based Structure

This program is a cohort-based program. Students will be placed in a group in their cohort and will be taking courses during the program with the same group or as needed. Partial course loads are not permitted. All courses in a semester must be paid for and taken together. If a student fails to maintain the full course load, the student must withdraw from the program.

For information on admissions of international students, please contact the Admissions Office of MGA.

DSIT Program Format

1. Residency 1: It is a 4-day in-person residency (Monday to Thursday) scheduled by the end of the summer session. Attending the residency is mandatory. Note that the residency is part of the first course (ITEC 7000 – Doctoral Seminar I). If a student is taking ITEC 7000 but does not attend the residency, the student fails the course and is dismissed from the program.

2. Cohort-based online courses: Since the program is cohort-based, all students in the cohort will be taking the courses together. Students are not allowed to pause

their coursework. Every semester, the department will register the students for Spring first and second sessions, Summer session, and Fall first and second sessions. A total of 2 courses will be taken per session (except 1st summer). Courses during this time will be fully online (specific information about the courses can be found in the DSIT general information).

3. Residency 2: The second in-person residency (4-day, Monday to Thursday) will take place at the end of the final Spring semester, and it is part of ITEC 8950 – Doctoral Seminar II. Students should be on campus for the dates of the residency as scheduled. Note all expenses for both residencies are fully covered by the student.

DSIT Course Schedule

Students in the Doctor of Science in Information Technology must complete 54 credit-hours and the final project to graduate from this program. The courses are divided in the following categories:

Technology Research

<u>ITEC 7110</u>	Research for Decision Making	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 7120</u>	Statistical analysis for decision-making	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 7130</u>	Advanced research analysis for decision-making	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 7140</u>	Qualitative Analysis for Decision Making	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 8150</u>	Research Design Proposal	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 8900</u>	Doctoral research project	6 credit hours

Leadership and Management

<u>ITEC 7200</u>	Design thinking & innovation	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 7220</u>	Leadership development	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 7230</u>	Information Technology Strategic Planning	3 credit hours
<u>ITEC 7210</u>	Leading disruptive technology in organizations	3 credit hours

Focused Topics

<u>ITEC 8100</u>	Data science and analytics strategy	3 credit hours
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ITEC 8110	Organizational strategy for cybersecurity management	3 credit hours
ITEC 8120	Information technology policy, compliance, and legal	3 credit hours
ITEC 8130	Information Technology Project and Program Management	3 credit hours
ITEC 8140	Contemporary issues in information technology	3 credit hours

Doctoral Seminars

ITEC 7000	Doctoral Seminar I	3 credit hours
ITEC 8950	Doctoral Seminar II	3 credit hours

DSIT Student Engagement

Doctor of Science in Information Technology students have the opportunity to serve on the Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC). The mission, student eligibility, meeting schedule, and organizational general information can be found in the interactive [Graduate Studies Academic Catalog](#).

The **Doctoral Student Academic Connection Network** is a group of student representatives that organize regular meetings with students in the DSIT program. The Doctoral Student Academic Connection Network will begin during Residency I and meet at least monthly to provide a supportive space for doctoral candidates to share experiences, discuss challenges, and celebrate milestones in their academic journey. These meetings will foster collaboration, motivation, and the exchange of valuable insights, helping members navigate the complexities of their doctoral programs. By engaging in regular discussions, participants can gain fresh perspectives, build a strong academic network, and stay motivated throughout their research and coursework.

There are also multiple opportunities to participate in activities offered by the Department of Information Technology to stay engaged and connected with your professors and peers. This information will be distributed via email to all students. Some activities available are:

- Monthly Seminars
- Yearly Academic Cybersecurity Seminar
- Program newsletters
- Cohort member networking
- Faculty and leadership support

DSIT Student Advisement

The graduate program coordinator will be your advisor. Every semester the cohort will get registered for the upcoming sessions when the registration period opens. Any issue with your courses must be communicated to the coordinator in a timely manner.

Civility, Academic Honesty Expectations, and E-Professionalism

Since most of the courses are online, it is expected the student demonstrates e-professionalism, including engaging in regular attendance, submitting **quality assignments** on time, communicating with the instructor in a timely manner, sending emails with professionalism, etc.

It is also expected to always submit original work, including references consulted. Academic dishonesty and plagiarism are not accepted.

DSIT Outcomes

Upon completion of this degree, the DSIT candidate will be awarded a **Doctor of Science in Information Technology degree** from Middle Georgia State University. This degree does not guarantee advancement or promotion in any professional setting. This degree is a professional, specialty, terminal degree; however, it may not be recognized for advancement, promotion, or retention by any and all employers or academic entities. Any and all recognition of this degree is at an employer's or academic entity's discretion, and Middle Georgia State University retains or holds no liabilities or warranties, implied or expressed.

The DSIT Student Learning Outcomes are:

SLO 1: Apply relevant methodologies to develop an innovative information technology solution (Program SLO 1)

SLO2: Formulate effective leadership strategies to guide information technology within organizations (Program SLO 2)

SLO3: Evaluate information technology policy, compliance, and legal requirements within organizations (program SLO 3)

SLO 4: Conduct information technology research to create knowledge (program SLO 4)

Research

Integrity is expected in the research conducted by the student. The final product of this program is a research paper (not a dissertation). The student must start the research process from the beginning of the program, to finish the research paper on time and successfully complete the program.

APA Formatting

Strict adherence to APA formatting is required throughout the program. Students must obtain and reference the latest APA edition. Formatting requirements apply to all coursework, and formatting is the responsibility of the student. Please contact the MGA Library to make an appointment with the Graduate Studies Librarian for APA formatting support.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Process and CiTi Training

As a doctoral student, you will be required to submit an IRB and complete CiTi Training in the ITEC 7110 course prior to conducting research. The IRB oversees all research involving human subjects and IRB approval is required before research begins. CiTi Training is also required to submit the IRB for research involving human subjects. Please see the [MGA IRB website](#) for further information.

Academic Performance and Progress

A student admitted to the Middle Georgia State University Doctor of Science in Information Technology Program may continue in the program as long as the student maintains satisfactory performance and progress toward completion of the student's DSIT degree.

The definition of satisfactory academic and professional performance for this program is defined as:

- Meeting general expectations for graduate student performance and progress within the program that includes, but is not limited to, regular attendance, required coursework completion, all residency requirements, research and scholarship expectations as set by the instructors and leadership of the program while maintaining grade point average (A or B) and course outline fulfillment in the time allotted for each course.

- Performance and progress measures include, but are not limited to:
 - Key academic milestones include fulfilling prerequisites and residency requirements.
 - Meeting expected timelines
 - Evaluation of progress and milestones by faculty and leadership

Performance issues that would lead to **Academic Dismissal**, are outlined below; however, the Middle Georgia State University School of Computing is not limited to these provisions and reserves the right to dismiss a student from the program if other deficiencies are outlined as defined by the Middle Georgia State University School of Computing.

The following status levels are used to indicate unsatisfactory performance, to communicate clear expectations to the student, and to outline consequences should those expectations not be met in the time allotted for this cohort-based doctoral program.

Expectation: Doctoral students must maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA to remain in Good Academic Standing. The doctoral student must earn an A or B in each course, and courses must be completed on time in the sequential order as outlined in the [program of study](#). The student must also fulfill all residency requirements (on campus) and any other requirements of the program.

If the student receives an Incomplete (I), then the student should contact the advisor to discuss academic status. Failure to resolve the Incomplete in the time allotted will result in progression to **Academic Dismissal**.

Academic Dismissal is comprised of one or more of the following:

- Earning a grade less than a B. This includes but is not limited to grades of C, F, WF, U, or W.
- Because of the cohort-based design of the DSIT program, the student may not be able to progress with his or her cohort due to lack of prerequisite requirement fulfillment. Falling behind in one or more cohort courses will result in this status.
- Lack of attendance as defined by the MGA School of Computing.
- Lack of timely communication as defined by the MGA School of Computing.
- Failure to resolve one or more Incomplete (I) grades in the time allotted.
- Failure to attend Residency 1, Residency 2, and/or any other program designated required activities, assignments, or meetings.

Due to the cohort-based design of the DSIT program, the student may appeal to the decision of program dismissal. However, Middle Georgia State University School of

Computing declares that reinstatement is not guaranteed, and any decisions regarding reinstatement are individualized with past performance considered. After appealing, any possibility of reinstatement will be made after one year's completion of terms (Fall, Spring, and Summer), and Middle Georgia State University School of Computing reserves the right to deny reentry.

Additional Policies

- The student must be continuously enrolled in the program and cannot skip or be dropped off a course or semester because of no-shows or drop for non-payment. Failure to be a continuous student is cause of dismissal.
- If a dismissed student wants to come back to the program, he or she needs to re-apply and admission is not guaranteed.
- If a student fails to complete the research project on time in ITEC 8900, he or she needs to take ITEC 8999 as needed until the student is ready to graduate.
- Continuous enrollment (Summer, Fall, and Spring following ITEC 8900) in ITEC 8999 is required until the research project is complete.
- ITEC 8999 can be taken up to 3 times, otherwise the student is dismissed.

Transfer Credit Policy

Up to 9 credit-hours may be approved to transfer in the DSIT program. The courses to be transferred must be same-level courses (doctorate level) and similar in content to the course(s) we offer in our program. Approval of the dean of the School of Computing is needed.

To apply for transfer credit, students should use the Middle Georgia State University Credit Appeal Form available on the MGA website.

Research Projects Repository

Final projects from all students in the cohorts of the Doctor of Science in Information Technology are in the [DSIT Research Repository](#). The research papers in this repository have been approved by the Graduate Faculty of the School of Computing at Middle Georgia State University as partial fulfillment of the requirements for Doctorate degrees conferred by the University.

At the completion of the DSIT program, the student's research paper will be posted to the repository and will be published through EBSCO. The repository is open and public, and students in the DSIT program can utilize the repository as reference.

Graduation

Doctoral students must follow the same calendar, process, and fee payment as outlined in the Catalog for Graduation. The Graduation Fee for graduate students must be covered. Graduate students may not apply for graduation with Incompletes on their transcripts. Students must be able to complete all course requirements by the end of spring semester to be eligible for spring graduation.