



**TO:** President Eric J. Barron  
**FROM:** Robert Bradley *RBB*  
**DATE:** January 28, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** Proposal to Explore Masters of Science in Information Technology  
**Request for Approval**

The proposed Masters of Science in Information Technology degree will prepare students to manage significant software development projects, develop social media strategies, and lead teams of information system developers in areas such as medical/consumer health, government and not-for-profit agencies, and large libraries seeking advanced levels of technical knowledge.

The program is expected to attract new students as well as former graduates who are currently working full-time in IT positions outside of Tallahassee. It is anticipated that approximately 80% of the students will be distance students, with the remaining 20% taking local or hybrid courses on campus. The program is consistent with the SUS Strategic Plan to meet statewide professional and workforce needs.

There are no existing master's IT programs in the SUS. There are currently 5 undergraduate IT programs in the SUS, but none of these programs offer the user-focused approach to technology management inherent in this degree nor do they provide instruction in information architecture, new media, consumer health information systems, human-computer interaction and system design starting with the end-user, and social technologies. None of the other programs are designed to support distance students. This program offers a unique blend of IT focused on user needs and social computing.

Existing faculty will be utilized initially. An additional tenure track position will be recommended with continued program growth. Minimal costs are anticipated to be associated with the effective delivery of online instruction because many of the courses needed are already offered in that format.