

# Management Information Systems

**SPEARS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Undergraduate Program | Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

## Internship Spotlight



### Logan Lynn's story

GRADUATION DATE **December 2011**

MAJOR **Management Information Systems**

JOB TITLE **Information Technology Intern, Williams Companies,  
Tulsa, Oklahoma**

With the continual changes in technology, it is easy to understand why the demand for professionals experienced in both managerial and technological roles has skyrocketed in

recent decades.

With a father who worked in the IT industry, Logan Lynn grew up understanding the need for such technical experts, and he jumped on the opportunity to major in management information systems when he enrolled at Oklahoma State University's Spears School of Business.

"Having grown up with a parent who worked in IT, I was able to see the opportunity an MIS degree provides first-hand," Logan said. "The fact that there is a huge demand for IT skills is very appealing to me."

Logan is currently interning with the IT infrastructure group of Williams Companies in Tulsa, Okla. In his position, he has the unique opportunity to help plan, budget and build the IT infrastructure for Williams' new company, which is a spinoff of their exploration and production division. Logan is responsible for researching cloud email providers and has held conference calls with representatives from Microsoft, Google and IBM. At the end of the summer, Logan will make a proposal to the company's management team recommending which system he deems best.

"This project is moving quickly, and I love the fast-paced nature of the work," Logan said. "It is exciting for me as a student to know I am playing a major role in implementing a system that will affect more than 1,000 people in a publicly traded company."

To new students, Logan recommends getting engaged in departmental clubs and in major-related activities. During his college career, Logan has been involved in the Association for Information Technology Professionals and the Information Security and Assurance Club, and he has worked for OSU's IT department and Interworks Inc. in Stillwater, Okla. He said taking on these roles has been crucial to his success as an MIS major.

"Get involved! Join AITP and ISAC, make friends with your professors, or do anything that will help you develop a network within the department," Logan said. "Doing this will open more doors than you could ever imagine."

## Why MIS?

Are you good at problem-solving and interested in technology? Do you want to have a competitive salary and be able to find a job easily? If so, a degree in management information systems (MIS) from the Spears School of Business at OSU might be for you. Information systems are the core of all successful businesses, and MIS is an exciting, thriving field of study that focuses on applying technology to solve real-world organization problems. Plus, students with an education in MIS are in high demand.

To earn this degree, you will complete 120 hours of undergraduate coursework. Many students also choose to pursue double majors, minors or options; these include information assurance, accounting, and management science and computer systems.

## Internships

The Spears School encourages participation in internship opportunities prior to graduation to gain work experience, improve your competitiveness in the labor market, and discover through real world experience whether the career you are pursuing is a good fit. One of the best places you can find internships and begin interacting with employers is through the OSU Career Services website, [hiresosugrads.com](http://hiresosugrads.com).

## Student organizations

The MSIS Department is home to the Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP), the Information Security and Assurance Club (ISAC) and [osuWebDev](http://osuWebDev). These organizations are great resources for students to learn, lead and make contacts in information systems and assurance.

## Study abroad/travel programs

The Center for Executive and Professional Development in the Spears School provides a number of short-term, study abroad and travel programs to expose you to different cultures, experiences, and business views. Courses within these programs are designed specifically for the setting within which the travel experience takes place and allow you to advance your academic and professional education.



## Department of Management Science and Information Systems

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Stillwater, Oklahoma 74078 **EMAIL [msis@okstate.edu](mailto:msis@okstate.edu)**

# Career Spotlight



## Blair Thorp's Story

GRADUATION DATE **May 2011**

MAJOR **Management Information Systems**

MINOR **Marketing**

JOB TITLE **Delivery Consultant, Cerner Corporation,  
Kansas City, Missouri**

Growing up, Blair Thorp always enjoyed watching and helping her stepfather work. She would sit by his side, following his every move as he programmed software that has helped develop roads all over the world. Now, with a degree in Management Information Systems from Oklahoma State University's Spears School of Business, Blair can follow in his footsteps.

"I just knew this is what I was meant to do," Blair said.

Currently, Blair is a delivery consultant for Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Mo. In her position, she has become a system matters expert for PharmNet, a pharmaceutical software solution that entails ordering medications. Her responsibilities include communicating with clients to see how they want to specialize their software, taking that information to Cerner's system engineers, and working hand in hand with both entities to make sure the system is exactly how the client wants it to be. After the software is developed, Blair installs and implements the system for the client.

To get to this point, Blair said she learned a great deal about employers' needs from participating in student organizations and completing an internship with Walgreens Pharmacy.

"Throughout college, I was very fortunate to have been exposed to a lot of valuable experiences that have helped me in my career," Blair said. "The most valuable experience was my internship. It offered me real-world experience, and it helped me develop better customer service skills, problem solving skills and marketing skills."

To incoming freshmen, Blair recommends finding a major that will make them happy, even if it means sacrificing a higher paycheck.

"College is said to be the best four years of your life," Blair said. "If you ask me, this does not just mean finding your best friends, going to football games or attending date parties; it means finding a career and a path that will make you happy. The whole point of life is to live it. Don't pick a major because of how much money you could get at a job; pick a degree in something you enjoy and can do for the rest of your life."

"Too many people in the workforce go to work unhappy and come home unhappy. During my final interview with Cerner, I asked my current boss if he enjoys his job. His respond was, 'I come to work with a smile on my face 90 percent of the time.' That is definitely how I want to live my life, loving what I do and enjoying each day."

If you would love a career like Blair's, contact the Department of Management Science and Information Systems today!

## Scholarships

Each year, the Spears School grants more than 275 individual awards for a total of nearly \$500,000 in scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students. These numbers continue to grow as donors recognize the value of providing assistance to college students.

## Management information systems career areas

### Business analyst

- Business analysts work with employees, managers and systems development teams to construct an organization's information systems.

### Systems analyst

- Systems analysts use information needs collected by the business analysts to organize and design information systems that programmers will code.

### Database administrator

- Data analysts design and build databases that work to meet business needs. If the data isn't correct, the system doesn't work. Data warehouses, data marts and data mining: The power is in the data.

### Network communications specialist

- Network communications specialists design networks and connect computers, routers, switches and other devices to make operational networks.

### Information assurance (IA) analyst

- IA analysts protect information and information systems from hackers and malicious attacks.

## Career resources for management information systems majors

A few helpful Web sites and professional associations for MIS students include:

Tech Careers ..... [techcareers.com](http://techcareers.com)

OSU Career Services ..... [hireosugrads.com](http://hireosugrads.com)

Computer World ..... [computerworld.com](http://computerworld.com)

Information Week ..... [informationweek.com](http://informationweek.com)

Tech Jobs ..... [dice.com](http://dice.com)

Association for Information Systems..... [home.aisnet.org](http://home.aisnet.org)

The Association of Information Technology Professionals..... [itp.org](http://itp.org)

Indeed, one service, all jobs..... [indeed.com](http://indeed.com)

## Spears School of Business Career Services

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