THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Resolution

Granting Initial Approval of and Permission to Submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in Informatics (CIP 11.0104) in the School of Library & Information Studies in the College of Communication & Information Sciences

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees approved the Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal (NISP) for the Informatics (B.S.) program on February 2, 2024; and

WHEREAS, information technologies such as social media, artificial intelligence, and interactive media have moved from the periphery to center stage; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing need for professionals who approach information technology from a user-centered perspective with a focus on the analysis and design of socio-technical systems that store, process, and communicate information; and

WHEREAS, the School of Library & Information Studies (SLIS) is poised to leverage existing expertise in informatics and information technology to create an initial undergraduate degree offering unanimously supported by the faculty; and

WHEREAS, the Informatics (B.S.) degree program will enable students to assess information technology impacts and design information structures to solve complex social and organizational problems; and

WHEREAS, the Informatics (B.S.) degree program will enable students to benefit from interdisciplinary expertise across the entirety of the College of Communication & Information Sciences; and

WHEREAS, the creation of a new undergraduate degree program will improve access and opportunity for students while growing the enrollment of the College of Communication & Information Sciences;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of The University of Alabama that it grants initial approval of and permission to submit to the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) a Proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Informatics (CIP 11.0104) in the School of Library & Information Studies in the College of Communication & Information Sciences at The University of Alabama.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA®

Office of the
President

February 21, 2024

Chancellor Finis E. St. John IV
The University of Alabama System
500 University Boulevard East
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Dear Chancellor St. John:

I am pleased to endorse the recommendation from Executive Vice President and Provost James Dalton and Dean Brian Butler of the College of Communication and Information Sciences in recommending for approval the attached proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Informatics. The proposed program will be housed in the School of Library and Information Studies in the College of Communication and Information Sciences. The Informatics (B.S.) degree will enable students to assess information technology impacts and design information structures to solve complex social and organizational problems.

If you approve of this proposal, I would appreciate you forwarding this request to the Chancellor at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Stuart R. Bell
President

Enclosures

c: Executive Vice President and Provost James Dalton
     Dean Brian Butler
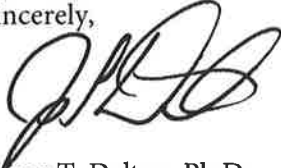
February 21, 2024

President Stuart R. Bell
The University of Alabama
203 Rose Administration Building
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear President Bell:

I join Dean Brian Butler of the College of Communication and Information Sciences in recommending for approval the attached proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Informatics. The proposed program will be housed in the School of Library and Information Studies in the College of Communication and Information Sciences. The Informatics (B.S.) degree will enable students to assess information technology impacts and design information structures to solve complex social and organizational problems.

If you approve of this proposal, I would appreciate you forwarding this request to the Chancellor at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

James T. Dalton, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President and Provost

Enclosures

c: Dean Brian Butler

May 5, 2023

Dr. James Dalton
Provost, Office for Academic Affairs
The University of Alabama
Box 870114
Tuscaloosa, AL 35487

Dear Provost Dalton,

I write in support of a Notification of Intent to Submit a Proposal alongside a Proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Informatics (CIP 11.0104) in the College of Communication & Information Sciences.

Information technologies including social media, artificial intelligence, and interactive media have moved mainstream and there is a growing need for professionals who approach information technology from a user-centered perspective with a focus on the analysis and design of socio-technical systems that store, process, and communicate information.

The School of Library & Information Studies is poised to leverage existing expertise in informatics and information technology to create its first undergraduate degree offering, which is unanimously supported by the faculty.

An informatics degree will enable students to assess information technology impacts and design information structures to solve complex social and organizational problems. Their skills and knowledge will be enhanced by the interdisciplinary expertise that exists across the entirety of the College of Communication & Information Sciences.

I anticipate this degree will significantly increase access and opportunity for students in the state of Alabama and the nation while enhancing the College's national positioning. The proposed degree program builds on the expertise of our existing faculty and will be enhanced by your support of new faculty that extend our strong foundation.

I recommend approval of both the notification of intent to submit a proposal as well as the full proposal without reservation.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Butler, Ph.D.
Dean

Board Rule 502
New Program Proposal Supplement

In addition to the items ACHE has requested for program proposals, please include the following additional items when developing and submitting academic program proposals to the System Office and the Board of Trustees for approval.

1. Institution:

- UA

2. Program Identification

Program Name:	Informatics
Degree Nomenclature:	B.S.
Date of NPP Submission:	NISP 2/2/2024

3. CIP Code

2-digit CIP Code:	11 COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES
4-digit CIP Code:	11 COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES ~ 11.01 Computer and Information Sciences, General
6-digit CIP Code:	11 COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES ~ 11.01 Computer and Information Sciences, General ~ 11.0104 Informatics

4. Executive Summary (not to exceed two pages)

The purpose of this proposal is to offer an Informatics (B.S.) degree program at The University of Alabama. As information technologies such as social media, artificial intelligence (AI), and interactive media have moved from the periphery to center stage, there is increased need for professionals who can accurately assess their impact and realize their potential to

enhance our lives, work, and well-being. The Informatics (B.S.) approaches information technology from a user-centered perspective with a focus on the analysis and design of socio-technical systems that store, process, and communicate information. This program is designed for students who are interested in assessing information technology impacts and designing information structures and technology to solve complex social and organizational problems. While no comparable program is currently offered in Alabama, similar programs are now offered by peer schools throughout the US, including multiple flagship programs in the SEC and the Big10. Offering a B.S. in Informatics in the College of Communication and Information Sciences (C&IS) will capitalize on the faculty expertise in the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS) and contribute to The University of Alabama's goal of providing premier undergraduate education based on high-quality scholarship and a distinctive curriculum.

The Informatics (B.S.) program marks the realization of an idea that began when the College of Communication and the School of Library and Information Studies merged in 1997 to form the College of Communication and Information Sciences. This program extends the College's undergraduate offerings to cover the full life cycle of information across the undergraduate majors - from creation to preservation and analyzing the societal impact of information across formats and media. The Informatics program supports the College of Communication and Information Sciences goal of increased collaboration across units, allowing us to leverage our distinctive organization as a unified college. It also supports the School of Library and Information Studies goal of an increased presence in undergraduate education. The Informatics (B.S.) also supports the College and School goal of improving national rankings and reputation. Most highly-ranked information science programs have undergraduate degree offerings, so the Informatics program provides the opportunity to join our national peers in the undergraduate market.

The Informatics (B.S.) program provides students with a curriculum that combines foundational knowledge, practical skills, and professionally relevant experiences. Early in the program, students develop their basic awareness of issues and practical technical (e.g., scripting, database queries and design), analysis, and design skills. These skills provide the basis for students to compete for internships and successfully complete career relevant projects. In advanced electives their initial experiences are integrated with more advanced conceptual frameworks and theoretical work regarding the nature of information and emerging technologies to develop grounded expertise and guide further skill development. This approach

culminates in the Informatics Capstone course, in which students bring together their skills, experience, and knowledge to complete a complex needs assessment and information design challenge.

The Informatics (B.S.) serves many of the information technology entries on the Alabama Demand Occupations ACCCP 2021-2022 list. More generally, increasingly both entry level and professional positions require individuals who are able to assess information needs and work with technical specialists to develop information products and services which meet those needs. For this reason, taken as a double major, the B.S. in Informatics will help prepare students for success in many of the careers listed on the Alabama Demand Occupations report.

SLIS started offering undergraduate Information Science courses in Fall 2023 as general electives. In September 2023, students enrolled in these courses were surveyed to estimate demand for the proposed major. At the same time, we also surveyed freshmen in other C&IS majors, such as Advertising, Public Relations, News Media, and Communication Studies to develop estimates of interest in majors and double majors [a minor] in Informatics. While 61% of the survey's 190 respondents stated they were not aware of the term "informatics," 62% reported interest in human-centered design, 48% reported interest in universal access, and "user experience designer" was the leading career choice of interest to respondents. These results show strong interest among our College's students in informatics careers, even if they are not yet familiar with the term itself.

5. Steps taken to determine if other UA System institutions might be interested in collaborating in the program.

There is no current plan to collaborate with other UA System institutions. We are open to conversations on future prospects that would benefit both institutions.

6. Summary of other campus comments, internal to the UA System or external (if any), regarding your plans for developing this program. Please include substantive feedback from the pre-proposal process.

N/A

7. Describe the process that will be used by your institution for routine internal and/or external program review.

All departments at The University of Alabama undergo academic program review (APR) approximately every eight years. The APR process includes a departmental self-study, an on-site visit by a review team with internal and external members, and a department-created strategic action plan informed by the review team's recommendations.

8. Describe the process that will be used in assessing program outcomes (to include student learning outcomes).

All academic programs are required to submit annual assessment reports that includes student learning outcomes, measures to collect data, analysis of data, and plans for the use of data for continuous improvement.

Students completing the Informatics (B.S.) program will be able to:

1. Understand, analyze, and evaluate principles of information retrieval for optimized information access.

2. Apply human-centered design principles to improve technology applications for the information needs of diverse users.

3. Understand, evaluate, and apply established and emerging technologies for maximizing how people will interact, live, and work in the future.

4. Explain, discuss, and critically evaluate how information technologies, processes, practices, and their biases impact broader social and organizational structures.

9. Other pertinent information, if any.
N/A

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

Proposal for a New Degree Program

I. Information and Rationale

A. Primary Contact Information

Institution: University of Alabama

Contact: Ginger Bishop

Title: Assistant Provost/SACSCOC Liaison

Email: vabishop@ua.edu

Telephone: 205-348-7125

B. Program Information

Date of Proposal Submission: April 2024

Award Level: Bachelor's Degree

Award Nomenclature (e.g., BS, MBA): B.S.

Field of Study/Program Title: Informatics

CIP Code (6-digit): 11.0104

Proposed Delivery Method: Main Campus

C. Implementation Information

Proposed Program Implementation Date: 8/1/2025

Anticipated Date of Approval from Institutional Governing Board: 9/13/2024

Anticipated Date of ACHE Meeting to Vote on Proposal: 9/13/2024

SACSCOC Sub Change Requirement (Notification, Approval, or NA): Approval

Other Considerations for Timing and Approval (e.g., upcoming SACSCOC review): None

D. Specific Rationale (Strengths) for the Program

List 3 – 5 strengths of the proposed program as specific rationale for recommending approval of this proposal.

1. The program provides the opportunity for students to develop skills, knowledge, and experience in working with a human-centered approach to information and technology design, a growing area of need in the job market.

2. The program provides opportunities to explore accessibility and user experience from theoretical and practical approaches.

3. The program expands the reach of the long-established School of Library and Information Studies, allowing for a full range of higher education degree offerings centered on how humans access and use information.

List external entities (more may be added) that may have supplied letters of support attesting to the program's strengths and attach letters with the proposal at the end of this document. (external letters of support are not required, but encouraged)

II. Background with Context

A. Concise Program Description

1. Briefly describe the purpose of the proposed program.

    As information technologies such as social media, artificial intelligence (AI), and interactive media have moved from the periphery to center stage, there is increased need for professionals who can accurately assess their impact and realize their potential to enhance our lives, work, and well-being. The Informatics (B.S.) approaches information technology from a user-centered perspective with a focus on the analysis and design of socio-technical systems that store, process, and communicate information. This program is designed for students who are interested in assessing information technology impacts and designing information structures and technology to solve complex social and organizational problems. While no comparable program is currently offered in Alabama, similar programs are now offered by peer schools throughout the US, including multiple flagship programs in the SEC and the Big10. Offering an Informatics (B.S.) in the College of Communication and Information Sciences will capitalize on the faculty expertise in the School of Library and Information Studies and contribute to The University of Alabama's goal of providing premier undergraduate education based on high-quality scholarship and a distinctive curriculum.

2. Describe, if applicable, general opportunities for work-based and/or experiential learning within the proposed program.

    There are no WBL activities required for program completion. However, much of the coursework in the program will involve projects and teamwork, some with external clients. In addition, students will be strongly encouraged to seek out and complete multiple internships to help them refine their career plans and deepen their professionally relevant experience. Support for this will be provided by the College's Tisch Center for Student Services and External Relations.

3. Prove a brief statement regarding how the program's purpose is related to the mission and goals of the department, college, and University.

    The Informatics (B.S.) program marks the realization of an idea that began when the College of Communication and the School of Library and Information Studies merged in 1997 to form the College of Communication and Information Sciences. This program extends the College's undergraduate offerings to cover the full life cycle of information across the undergraduate majors - from creation to preservation and analysis of the societal impact of information across formats and media. The Informatics (B.S.) program supports the College of Communication and Information Sciences goal of increased collaboration across units, allowing us to leverage our distinctive organization as a unified college. It also supports the School of Library and Information Studies goal of an increased presence in undergraduate education. The Informatics (B.S.) also supports the College and School goal of improving national rankings and reputation. Most highly-ranked information science programs have undergraduate degree offerings, so the Informatics program provides the opportunity to join our national peers in the undergraduate market.

B. Student Learning Outcomes

List four (4) to seven (7) of the student learning outcomes of the program.

1. Understand, analyze, and evaluate principles of information retrieval for optimized information access.
2. Apply human-centered design principles to improve technology applications for the information needs of diverse users.
3. Understand, evaluate, and apply established and emerging technologies for maximizing how people will interact, live, and work in the future.
4. Explain, discuss, and critically evaluate how information technologies, processes, practices, and their biases impact broader social and organizational structures.

C. Administration of the Program

Name of Dean and College: Brian Butler, College of Communication and Information Sciences

Name of Department/Division: School of Library and Information Studies

Name of Chairperson: Jamie Naidoo

D. Similar Programs at Other Alabama Public Institutions

List programs at other Alabama public institutions of the same degree level and the same (or similar) CIP codes. If no similar programs exist within Alabama, list similar programs offered within the 16 SREB states. If the proposed program duplicates, closely resembles, or is similar to any other offerings in the state, provide justification for any potential duplication.

There are no programs in Alabama using the same CIP code. Other programs in Alabama that may attract similar students are the following: B.S. in Information Technology at Athens State University, University of North Alabama, and University of South Alabama; B.S. in Information Systems at Auburn University at Montgomery; B.S. in Computer Information Systems at Alabama State University and Jacksonville State University; and a B.S. in Information Systems at University of South Alabama.

In the SREB states, there are established informatics programs in a number of locations, most notably at University of Maryland Global Campus, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and University of Texas at Arlington.

E. Relationship to Existing Programs within the Institution

1. Is the proposed program associated with any existing offerings within the institution, including options within current degree programs?　　　　**Yes ☐　No ☒**

   (Note: Most new programs have some relationship to existing offerings, *e.g.*, through shared courses or resources). If yes, complete the following table. If this is a graduate program, list any existing undergraduate programs which are directly or indirectly related. If this is a doctoral program, also list related master's programs.

2. Will this program replace any existing programs or specializations, options, or concentrations?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

   If yes, please explain.

3. Will the program compete with any current internal offerings?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

   If yes, please explain.

   If applicable, attach a letter of support from the competing or overlapping department(s)

F. Collaboration

Have collaborations with other institutions or external entities been explored?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program.

Have any collaborations within your institution been explored?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

If yes, provide a brief explanation indicating those collaboration plan(s) for the proposed program. If not, provide a brief explanation why collaboration is not being explored, including impact on the students and University.

Dean Brian Butler has had conversations with deans from UA's Culverhouse College of Business and College of Engineering regarding the informatics undergraduate. They are supportive of the degree in that it does not overlap with the degrees that they offer.

G. Specialized Accreditation

1. Will this program have any external accreditation requirements in addition to the institution's SACSCOC program requirements?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

   If yes, list the name(s) of the specialized accrediting organization(s) and the anticipated timeframe of the application process.

2. Does your institution intend to pursue any other non-required accrediting organizations for the program?*   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

   If yes, list the name(s) of the organization(s) and the purpose of the pursuit.

   If there are plans to pursue non-required external accreditation at a later date, list the name(s) and why the institution is not pursuing them at this time.

   Note: Check *No* to indicate that non-required external accreditation will not be pursued, which requires no explanation.

H. Admissions

Will this program have any additional admissions requirements beyond the institution's standard admissions process/policies for this degree level? **Yes ☐ No ☒**

If yes, describe any other special admissions or curricular requirements, including any prior education or work experience required for acceptance into the program.

I. Mode of Delivery

Provide the planned delivery format(s) (*i.e.*, in-person, online, hybrid) of the program as defined in policy along with the planned location(s) at which the program will be delivered (*i.e.*, on-campus and/or at specific off-campus instructional site(s)). Please also note whether any program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

In-person. No program requirements can be completed through competency-based assessment.

J. Projected Program Demand (Student Demand)

Briefly describe the primary method(s) used to determine the level of student demand for this program using evidence, such as enrollments in related coursework at the institution, or a survey of student interest conducted (indicate the survey instrument used), number and percentage of respondents, and summary of results.

Nationally student enrollment in BS degrees offered by Information Schools (which includes Informatics and Information Science) is strong and growing, despite a leveling off of demand for traditional computer science majors (https://cra.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2021-Taulbee-Survey.pdf [Tables B1 and B4]).

At UA, existing courses in C&IS in social media and related topics see solid enrollment. For Fall 2023 this includes JCM 235 – Social Media and Society, APR 325 - Social and Digital Media, and MC 431 – Sports & Social Media with a total of 201 students registered. Anecdotally, there is evidence that potential freshmen and transfer students have asked about Informatics/Information Science undergraduate degrees at UA and had to be referred to other universities. Discussion with administrators, faculty, and students from across campus suggests that there is demand for a program outside engineering and business that prepares students to work with computing and information. The proposed Informatics (B.S.) is designed to meet that need.

SLIS offered undergraduate Information Science courses in Fall 2023 as general electives. In September 2023, SLIS surveyed students in these courses to estimate demand for the proposed major. At the same time, SLIS surveyed freshmen in other C&IS majors, such as Advertising, Public Relations, News Media, and Communication Studies to develop estimates of interest in majors and double majors in Informatics. While 61% of the survey's 190 respondents stated they were not aware of the term "informatics," 62% reported interest in human-centered design, 48% reported interest in universal access, and "user experience designer" was the leading career choice of interest to respondents. These results show strong interest among C&IS students in informatics careers, even if they are not yet familiar with the term itself.

III. Program Resource Requirements

A. Proposed Program Faculty*

Current Faculty and Faculty to Be Hired

Complete the following **New Academic Degree Proposal Faculty Roster** to provide a brief summary and qualifications of current faculty and potential new hires specific to the program. ***Note**: Institutions must maintain and have current as well as additional faculty curriculum vitae available upon ACHE request for as long as the program is active, but CVs are **not** to be submitted with this proposal.

Current Faculty			
1	**2**	**3**	**4**
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (F, P)	***COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)**	**ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed**	**OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)**
Hengyi Fu (F)	Fall, Yr. 3 - IS 310: Human-Centered Design (3 hrs) - UN; Spring, Yr. 2 - IS 260: Database Design and Modeling for Informatics (3hrs) - UN	Ph.D., in Information Science from the School of Information at Florida State University (FSU); Research interests: Information and Technology; Programming; Information Management; Database Concepts	Experience at UA with OL teaching; Experiences at FSU with IP teaching at UG level
Yuan Li (F)	Fall, Yr. 1 - IS 101: Introduction to Informatics (3 hrs) – UN; Fall, Yr. 3 - IS 310: Human-Centered Design (3 hrs) - UN	Ph.D., in Information Science (forthcoming) from UNC-Chapel Hill; Research interests: human-computer interaction, information retrieval and interaction, and user experience deign	Experience with OL teaching; Has experience with UG teaching
Laurie Bonnici (F)	Spring, Yr. 3 - IS 350: User Needs & Assessment (3 hrs) – UN; Fall, Yr. 4 - IS 301 Social Media Information Discoverability (3 hrs) - UN	Ph.D. in Information Science from Florida State University; Research interests: information seeking in knowledge contexts; information systems, sociotechnical aspects of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and data justice.	Experience with OL and IP teaching
Steven MacCall (F)	Fall, Yr. 2 - IS 220: Organizing Systems, Structures, and Retrieval (3 hrs) - UN	Ph.D. in Information Science from University of North Texas; Research interests: linked data, data-driven indexing methods, organizing systems	Experience with OL and IP teaching

Current Faculty

1	2	3	4
CURRENT FACULTY NAME (F, P)	***COURSES TAUGHT** including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	**ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK** Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	**OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS** Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Steven Yates (F)	Spring, Yr. 2 - IS 201: Information Literacy in Society (3 hrs) - UN	Ph.D. in Educational Instructional and Curriculum Supervision from University of Alabama; Research interests: Information literacy, information sustainability, information in society	Experience with OL and IP teaching at UG and Grad levels
Miriam Sweeney (F)	Spring, Yr. 3 - IS 350: User Needs & Assessment (3 hrs) – UN; Spring, Yr. 2 - IS 201: Information Literacy in Society (3 hrs) - UN	Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Research interests: interface design, anthropomorphic interfaces (e.g. chatbots and digital assistants), voice interfaces, artificial intelligence, and social aspects of big data infrastructures	Experience with OL and IP teaching

Additional Faculty (To Be Hired)

1	2	3	4
FACULTY POSITION (F, P)	***COURSES TO BE TAUGHT** including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	**ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK** Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	**OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS** Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Renewable Contract Associate Professor (F)	Spring, Yr. 2 - IS 210: Scripting Languages for Informatics (3 hrs) – UN; IS 260: Database Design and Modeling for Informatics – UN; Spring, Yr. 4 - IS 495: Informatics Capstone (3 hrs) – UN; Fall, Yr. 4 - IS 401: Informatics Futures (3 hrs) – UN	Master's or PhD in LIS, Information Science, Informatics, Computer Science, or related area; coursework/experience in: technical aspects of informatics, data science, human-centered design, database modeling, user experience, big data, AI, information forecasting, history of informatics	Experience with UG and/or IP teaching

Current Faculty

1 CURRENT FACULTY NAME (F, P)	2 *COURSES TAUGHT including Term, Course Number, Course Title, & Credit Hours (D, UN, UT, G, DU)	3 ACADEMIC DEGREES and COURSEWORK Relevant to Courses Taught, including Institution and Major; List Specific Graduate Coursework, if needed	4 OTHER QUALIFICATIONS and COMMENTS Related to Courses Taught and Modality(ies) (IP, OL, HY, OCIS)
Tenure-Track Assistant Professor (F)	Spring, Yr. 2 - IS 260: Database Design and Modeling for Informatics (3hrs) – UN; Fall Yr. 2 - IS 220: Organizing Systems, Structures, and Retrieval (3 hrs) – UN; Other IS core as needed.	PhD in LIS, Information Science, Informatics, Computer Science, or related area; coursework/experience in: information technology, database modeling, linked data, data-driven indexing methods, organizing systems	Experience with UG and/or IP teaching
Renewable Contract Assistant Professor (F)*	Spring, Yr. 4 - IS 495: Informatics Capstone (3 hrs) – UN; Fall, Yr. 4 - IS 401: Informatics Futures (3 hrs) – UN; Other IS core as needed.	Master's or PhD in LIS, Information Science, Informatics, Computer Science, or related area; coursework or research interests in: informatics, information in society, human-computer interaction	Experience with UG and/or IP teaching

Summary of Faculty Count

		Additional Comments (*optional*): Existing faculty also contribute to SLIS's growing master's and doctoral programs. SLIS does not have capacity for these faculty to also offer full coverage of UG courses. Courses listed would be the UG courses that these faculty could cover (not the full list of courses they teach for the other degree programs). Doctoral students will be able to teach some of these courses as doctoral programs grow in tandem with the UG program. SLIS is suggesting 2 new hires initially with 1 additional faculty to be hired as the program grows. * New faculty with the * will be added as the UG major grows. Their courses could be covered by first wave of new hires until student enrollment dictates additional faculty.
Current Full-Time	6	
Current Part-Time	0	
Additional Full-Time	3	
Additional Part-Time	0	

Abbreviations: (FT, PT): Full-Time, Part-Time; (D, UN, UT, G, DU): Developmental, Undergraduate Nontransferable, Undergraduate Transferable, Graduate, Dual: High School Dual Enrollment
Course Modality: (IP, OL, HY, OCIS): In-Person, Online, Hybrid, Off-Campus Instructional Site
Courses Taught/To be Taught – For a substantive change prospectus/application, list the courses *to be taught*, not historical teaching assignments.

B. All Proposed Program Personnel

Provide all personnel counts for the proposed program.
Note: Any new funds designated for compensation costs (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff to be Hired) **should be included** in the **New Academic Degree**

Program Business Plan Excel file. Current personnel salary/benefits (Faculty (FT/PT), Administration, and/or Support Staff) **should not be included** in the **Business Plan**.

Employment Status of Program Personnel		Personnel Information		
		Count from Proposed Program Department	Count from Other Departments	Subtotal of Personnel
Current	Full-Time Faculty	6		6
	Part-Time Faculty	0		0
	Administration	1		1
	Support Staff	1		1
**New To Be Hired	Full-Time Faculty	3		3
	Part-Time Faculty			
	Administration	1		1
	Support Staff	2		2
			Personnel Total	14

Provide justification that the institution has proposed a sufficient number of faculty (full-time and part-time) for the proposed program to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review.

New faculty qualifications will need to include individuals with a doctoral degree in library and information science, computer science, or related area and the ability to teach scripting languages, human-centered design, organization systems, and ethical applications and informatics futures. We are suggesting 2 new hires initially with 1 additional faculty hired as the program grows.

Initial hiring would include one renewable contract associate professor and one assistant professor prior to year 1 (Fall 25 program start). As the program grows, there may be the need for an additional renewable contract assistant professor. The C&IS Dean is supportive of working with the Provost to acquire these new lines. It is anticipated that SLIS will be searching for at least one of these positions in the 2023-2024 academic year.

This proposed degree will require additional staff support in Tisch Student Services, the C&IS area that currently supports the college's undergraduate programs. As the undergraduate program grows, there will be an identified need to add approximately three (100% FTE) additional support staff in Tisch to handle advising, admissions, recruitment, student engagement, and other aspects of the proposed undergraduate major. This would include 2 full-time academic advisors, 1 full-time program coordinator as enrollment increases.

C. Equipment

Will any special equipment be needed specifically for this program?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**
If *yes*, list the special equipment. Special equipment cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

D. Facilities

Will any new facilities be required specifically for the program?   **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If *yes*, list only **new** facilities. New facilities cost should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

Will any renovations to any existing infrastructure be required specifically for the program?   **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If *yes*, list the renovations. Renovation costs should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

E. Assistantships/Fellowships

Will the institution offer any assistantships specifically for this program?   **Yes** ☐ **No** ☒

If *yes*, how many assistantships will be offered?

The expenses associated with any *new* assistantships should be included in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

F. Library

Provide a brief summarization (one to two paragraphs) describing the current status of the library collections supporting the proposed program.

Current holdings in UA Libraries are as follows:
Informatics
Items located in UA Libraries with the Keyword or Subject Heading of Informatics:

- Keyword "Informatics"
  - All Materials: 4541 results
  - Journals/Serials: 1075 results
- Subject Heading "Informatics"
  - All Materials: 7 results

Information Science
Items located in UA Libraries with the Keyword or Subject Heading of Information Science:

- Keyword "Information Science"
  - All Materials: 10,000 results
  - Journals/Serials: 10,000 results
- Subject Heading "Information Science"
  - All Materials: 335 results

Human Computer Interaction
Items located in UA Libraries with the Keyword or Subject Heading of Human Computer Interaction:

- Keyword "Human Computer Interaction"
  - All Materials: 10,000 results
  - Journals/Serials: 8,805 results

- Subject Heading "Human Computer Interaction"
  - All Materials: 3181 results

Will additional library resources be required to support the program?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

If *yes*, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied, and include the cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

G. Accreditation Expenses

Will the proposed program require accreditation expenses?   **Yes ☒ No ☐**

If *yes*, briefly describe the estimated cost and funding source(s) and include cost in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

This new degree program will require SACSCOC approval, which entails the submission of a prospectus to SACSCOC for approval. SACSCOC charges $500 to review a prospectus.

H. Other Costs

Please explain any other costs to be incurred with program implementation, such as marketing or recruitment costs. Be sure to note these in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

I. Revenues for Program Support

Will the proposed program require budget reallocation?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

If *yes*, briefly describe how any deficiencies will be remedied and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

Will the proposed program require external funding (*e.g.*, Perkins, Foundation, Federal Grants, Sponsored Research, etc.)?   **Yes ☐ No ☒**

If *yes*, list the sources of external funding and include the revenue in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.**

Please describe how you calculated the tuition revenue that appears in the **New Academic Degree Program Business Plan Excel file.** Specifically, did you calculate using cost per credit hour or per term? Did you factor in differences between resident and non-resident tuition rates?

Tuition:
In state: $11,100; out of state $31,460

Assuming enrollments are 50% out of state and 50% in state, the average tuition revenue for each student listed in total headcount is $21,280. Part-time student tuition was estimated at an average of $5,910 tuition per academic year based on residency and six credit hours per semester.

Enrollments:

In year 1, assuming 10 majors from CIS or other areas in UA will switch to Informatics.

New enrollments will start with 15 new students in year 2 and increase thereafter.

IV. Employment Outcomes and Program Demand (Industry Need)

A. Standard Occupational Code System

Using the federal Standard Occupational Code (SOC) System, indicate the top three occupational codes related to post-graduation employment from the program. A full list of SOCs can be found at https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/find/family/title#17.

A list of Alabama's *In-Demand Occupations* is available at https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/.

List the SOC and description.

SOC 1 (Required)
15-1257: Web developers and digital interface designers
The Informatics B.S. coursework prepares students to design human-centered interfaces with a focus on usability and accessibility.

SOC 2 (required)
15-1211: Computer systems analysts
Through coursework focused on design and human-computer interaction, the Informatics B.S. prepares students to critically analyze existing designs using innovative practices integrating evolving industry standards.

SOC 3 (required)
15-1221: Computer and information scientists
The human-centered approach of the Informatics B.S. allows students to excel in the analysis and testing phases of information technology through extensive practice and a capstone project centered in a real-world setting.

Briefly describe how the program fulfills a specific industry or employment need for the State of Alabama. As appropriate, discuss alignment with Alabama's Statewide or Regional Lists of In-Demand Occupations (https://www.ache.edu/index.php/policy-guidance/) or with emerging industries as identified by Innovate Alabama or the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA).

The Informatics (B.S.) serves many of the information technology entries on the Alabama Demand Occupations ACCCP 2021-2022 list. More generally, increasingly both entry level and professional positions require individuals who are able to assess information needs and work with technical specialists to develop information products and services which meet those needs. For this reason, taken as a double major with disciplines ranging from social and behavioral sciences to the fine arts, the Informatics (B.S.) will help prepare students for success in many of the careers listed

on the Alabama Demand Occupations report. These careers include software developers, software quality assurance analysts, computer systems analysts, and web developers and digital interface designers, all listed in the Demand Occupations top prospects in the information technology classification.

B. Employment Preparation

Describe how the proposed program prepares graduates to seek employment in the occupations (SOC codes) identified. Be specific in how the proposed program is related to the SOC codes listed above.

The Informatics (B.S.) program provides students with a curriculum that combines foundational knowledge, practical skills, and professionally relevant experiences. Early in the program, students develop their basic awareness of issues and practical technical (e.g., scripting, database queries, and design), analysis, and design skills. These skills provide the basis for students to compete for internships and successfully complete career relevant projects. In advanced electives their initial experiences are integrated with more advanced conceptual frameworks and theoretical work regarding the nature of information and emerging technologies to develop grounded expertise and guide further skill development. This approach culminates in the Informatics Capstone course, in which students bring together their skills, experience, and knowledge to complete a complex needs assessment and information design challenge.

In conjunction with the curriculum, students are expected to participate in mentoring programs (e.g., Oakley Society), Industry Immersion trips, campus career fairs, and other professional development activities provided by the C&IS Tisch Student Services and External Relations Center.

C. Professional Licensure/Certification

Please explain if professional licensure or industry certification is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected. Be sure to note which organization(s) grants licensure or certification.

N/A

D. Additional Education/Training

Please explain whether further education/training is required for graduates of the proposed program to gain entry-level employment in the occupations selected.

No additional education/training is required for entry-level employment. However, students can increase their ability to compete for jobs by pursuing technology certification or industry-specific credentials.

V. Curriculum Information for Proposed Degree Program

A. Program Completion Requirements: Enter the credit hour value for all applicable components (enter N/A if not applicable).

Curriculum Overview of Proposed Program	
Credit hours required in **general education**	37-46
Credit hours required in **program courses**	24
Credit hours in **program electives/concentrations/tracks**	12
Credit hours in **free electives**	38-47
Credit hours in **required research/thesis**	0
Total Credit Hours Required for Completion	**120**

Note: The above credit hours **MUST** match the credit hours in the *Curriculum Components of Proposed Program* table in Section V.G.

B. Maximum number of credits that can be transferred in from another institution and applied to the program:

> The Informatics (B.S.) program will follow UA and College of Communication and Information Sciences rules for transfer. Those rules (from the undergraduate catalog) are: A student may transfer a total of 75 percent of the coursework required from another accredited four-year institution or a total of 60 hours needed for a degree from a two-year or junior college, provided that these maximum numbers do not conflict with accreditation requirements or other divisional requirements. A minimum of 25 percent of the coursework required for the degree must be earned at The University of Alabama.

C. Intended program duration in semesters for full-time students: 8 semesters

D. Intended program duration in semesters for part-time students: 12 semesters

E. Does the program require students to demonstrate industry-validated skills, **Yes ☐ No ☒** specifically through an embedded industry-recognized certification, structured work-based learning with an employer partner, or alignment with nationally recognized industry standards?

If yes, explain how these components fit with the required coursework.

F. Does the program include any concentrations? **Yes ☐ No ☒**

If yes, provide an overview and identify these courses in the *Electives/Concentrations/Tracks* section in the Curriculum Components of Proposed Program Table in Section V.G.

G. Please provide all course information as indicated in the following table. Indicate new courses with "Y" in the associated column. If the course includes a required work-based learning component, such as an internship or practicum course, please indicate with a "Y" in the WBL column.

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Accessibility. Affordability. Coordination.

Program Name:	Informatics B.S.			
Program Level:	Bachelor's Degree			
Curriculum Components of Proposed Program				
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours	New? (Y)	WBL? (Y)
General Education Courses *(Undergraduate Only)*				
CIS 100	Freshman Compass College of Communication	2		
EN 101	English Composition	3		
EN 102	English Composition	3		
	Literature	3		
	Humanities/Fine Arts	3		
	Humanities/Fine Arts	3		
	History	3		
	Social Behavioral Science	3		
	Social Behavioral Science	3		
	Natural Science	4		
	Natural Science	4		
	Mathematics/Statistics	3-4		
	Foreign Language (if needed)	0-8		
	Total Hours	37-46		
Program Courses				
IS 101	Introduction to Informatics	3	Y	
IS 210	Script Lang for Informatics	3	Y	
IS 220	Org Systms, Struc & Retrvl	3	Y	
IS 260	Database Design & Mod for Info	3	Y	
IS 310	Human-Centered Design	3	Y	
IS 350	User Needs and Assessment	3	Y	
IS 401	Informatics Futures	3	Y	
IS 495	Informatics Capstone	3	Y	
	Total Hours	24		
Program Electives/Concentrations/Tracks				
Select 12 hours				
IS 201	Info Lit in Society	3	Y	
IS 290	Special Topics	3	Y	
IS 301	Social Media Info Discover	3	Y	
IS 490	Advanced Special Topics	3	Y	
IS 496	Field Exp in Info	3	Y	
IS 498	Independent Study	3	Y	
	Advisor Approved Elective	3		
	Total Hours	12		
Electives				
	Total Hours	38-47		
	*Total Credit Hours Required for Completion	120		

*Note: The total credit hours should equal the total credit hours in the Curriculum Overview table (V.B, p. 9).

The University of Alabama – Informatics B.S. Proposal

New Academic Degree Program Summary/Business Plan

Use the Excel form from ACHE's Academic Program webpage located at
https://www.ache.edu/index.php/forms/, named **New Academic Degree Program Business
Plan**, to complete the New Academic Program Degree Proposal.

Instructions and definitions are provided in the Excel file. **The New Academic Degree Program
Business Plan should be uploaded as an Excel file (.xlsx) in the Academic Program
Review (APR) Portal.**

8. Describe the process that will be used in assessing program outcomes (to include student learning outcomes).

All academic programs are required to submit annual assessment reports that includes student learning outcomes, measures to collect data, analysis of data, and plans for the use of data for continuous improvement.

Students completing the Informatics (B.S.) program will be able to:
1. Understand, analyze, and evaluate principles of information retrieval for optimized information access.
2. Apply human-centered design principles to improve technology applications for the information needs of diverse users.
3. Understand, evaluate, and apply established and emerging technologies for maximizing how people will interact, live, and work in the future.
4. Explain, discuss, and critically evaluate how information technologies, processes, practices, and their biases impact broader social and organizational structures.

9. Other pertinent information, if any.

NEW ACADEMIC DEGREE PROGRAM PROPOSAL SUMMARY

INSTITUTION: University of Alabama

PROGRAM: Informatics   *Select Level:*   Bachelor's

ESTIMATED "NEW" EXPENSES TO IMPLEMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
FACULTY	211,200	215,424	219,732	224,127	228,610	233,182	338,166	1670441
STAFF	47,520	48,470	49,439	50,428	51,437	101,306	1693,32	348600
EQUIPMENT								0
FACILITIES								0
LIBRARY								0
ASSISTANTSHIPS								0
OTHER	500							500
TOTAL	259220	263894	269171	274555	280047	334488	338166	2019541

"NEW" REVENUES AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM SUPPORT

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	TOTAL
REALLOCATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EXTRAMURAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TUITION	212,800	543,820	1,130,200	1,646,830	2,178,830	2,710,830	3,030,030	11453340
TOTAL	212800	543820	1130200	1646830	2178830	2710830	3030030	11453340

ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS
Note: "New Enrollment Headcount" is defined as unduplicated counts across years.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
FULL-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	25	52	76	101	126	141	86.83333333
PART-TIME HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	2	4	5	5	5	5	4.333333333
TOTAL HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	27	56	81	106	131	146	91.16666667
NEW ENROLLMENT HEADCOUNT	Year 1 - No data reporting required	17	39	50	60	70	80	52.66666667

DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS
Note: Do not count Lead "0"s and Lead 0 years in computing the average annual degree completions.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	AVERAGE
DEGREE COMPLETION PROJECTIONS	Year 1 - No data reporting required	0	10	25	35	45	65	36

Validation 1: Program revenues exceed or match expenses.   **YES**

Validation 2: Students who graduated the prior year are not included in the total headcount.   **OK**

Validation 3: There are enough new students enrolling each year to sustain completions.   **YES**

Validation 4: Completion projections meet viability standard for this degree level.   **MET**

New entails <u>additional</u> expenses or revenues associated with program implementation. Please include any planning or start-up expenses within Year 1 (even if these were incurred in Year 0 or prior). Do not include expenses or revenues already budgeted for a department or instructional unit prior to the development of this specific program. For instance, if new faculty will be hired to teach in this program, salary/benefits should be included for each year following hire, but salary/benefits for existing faculty would not be included.