Rationale for Changing CIP Code for MS/MIS Program

Background
The Master of Science in Management Information Systems (MS/MIS) curriculum in the Department of Information Systems and Decision Sciences (ISDS) is a 33-credit hour degree program designed to be at the intersection of technology and business. Graduates from this program are prepared for positions such as System/Business Analyst, Database Administrator, Software Engineer, Project Manager, IT Auditor, etc (see http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos258.htm).

We seek to change our CIP code from 52.1201, which reflects our roots in the Management Department, to 11.0501 that more accurately reflects our curriculum and is consistent with top programs such as Indiana University, Carnegie Mellon and the University of Arizona. It should be noted that the University of Florida that is home to the other top technical MS/MIS program in the state of Florida has also initiated the process of changing the CIP code of its MSIS program to 11.0501. The scope of the CIP change request is limited to the MS/MIS program, which is only offered on the USF Tampa campus.

Curriculum
MS/MIS course work covers a wide range of Information Technology (IT) topics such as programming/web applications development (Java), software testing, advanced database management, advanced systems analysis and design, distributed information systems, data warehousing, data mining, information security, enterprise resource planning/business process management, decision support systems, electronic commerce and project management. This is different from traditional Management Information Systems programs found in many business schools that have more managerial and behavioral programs.

In Appendix A, we have identified the relationship between MS/MIS courses and the relevant CIP descriptions and codes. An examination of Appendix A clearly shows that almost all MS/MIS courses map to several sub-categories in the “Computer Science 11.xxxx” category of the CIP codes list.

Impacts
It is anticipated that the requested change will not have any negative impacts on USF. The change would apply only to the master’s program. Since our undergraduate and doctoral programs both lead to degrees in business administration, and not in the discipline, there would be no change to the CIP codes for those programs. There appears to be no implications for accreditation. AACSBS accredits programs but does not consider CIP codes. We have investigated ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation standards and found that the MS/MIS would not be a candidate for inclusion in ABET’s accreditation of the College of Engineering—or as a free-standing program. According to the standards, ABET accredits programs that come under the purview of its Computing
Accreditation Commission only at the undergraduate level. There is no other category for graduate programs in information systems.

One of the major implications of the CIP code change would be the reclassification of the MS/MIS program as a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) designated program for the Department of Immigration, Customs, and Enforcement (ICE). This could help USF to be more competitive in attracting high quality international graduate students, as graduates of STEM programs can have the usual 12 month practical training period extended by ICE from 12 to 29 months.

**Summary**
An examination of Appendix B indicates that among the various “Computer Science 11.xxxx” category codes, the MSIS program and its objectives align most closely with the “Computer Science Analysis/Analyst (11.0501)” CIP code.

11.0501 Computer Systems Analysis/Analyst. A program that prepares individuals to apply programming and systems analysis principles to the selection, implementation, and troubleshooting of customized computer and software installations across the life cycle. Includes instruction in computer hardware and software; compilation, composition, execution, and operating systems; low- and high-level languages and language programming; programming and debugging techniques; installation and maintenance testing and documentation; process and data flow analysis; user needs analysis and documentation; cost-benefit analysis; and specification design.

Based on the review of this code, the ISDS Department requests that the MS/MIS degree be reclassified to “Computer System Analysis/Analyst (11.0501).”