

# IS Model Curriculum: Adoption by AACSB Schools and Recommendations for Future Updates

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## Abstract

As the skills and competencies needed by Information Systems (IS) undergraduates continues to grow, various IS professional societies have developed recommendations which are updated on a periodic basis. These recommendations known as 'model curriculum' are a guide for faculty and institutions to consider when developing or evaluating the effectiveness of their program. This research reviews the most recent IS2010 Model Curriculum and newly released Computing Curricula 2020 (CC2020) guidelines to determine their adoption rates by schools that currently offer a major or concentration in IS. Based on the evaluation of over 300 schools: the key findings include that of the six recommended upper level core courses, four had above a 50% adoption rate, while the remaining two were adopted by less than 30% of the schools surveyed. Interestingly, two suggested electives in the model curriculum were above 50% in their adoption rate as a core course. The findings indicate that the future 'core' courses may want to be closer aligned to changing employer needs and employer projections for new employees. Additionally, it appears the new CC2020 competencies are focused more on managerial competencies and less on skills needed by current undergraduates. As an example, 88% of the schools surveyed had a software development course in their core requirements, while the new CC2020 competencies seem to indicate a minimal need for software development. Tying courses to employer needs and projections will help ensure successful IS graduates going forward.

**Keywords:** IS2010 Model Curriculum, Computing Curricula 2020, AACSB, Information Systems, Curriculum

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