FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER:

CORNELL BOWERS CIS' MPS IN INFORMATION SCIENCE DEGREE

Cornell Bowers CIS
College of Computing and Information Science

The MPS in Information Science from the Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science is more than a graduate degree—it is a launchpad for your career.

Designed to develop both technical expertise and a deep understanding of the human dimensions of technology, the program offers an array of resources to help students move confidently from the classroom to the workplace.

Graduates of the MPS in Information Science thrive in high-impact, high-paying roles at leading companies around the globe. Whether you aim to become a software engineer, UX designer, researcher, or data analyst, this program positions you to lead at the forefront of the information age.

The MPS curriculum is divided into **two core areas of study:**

Human and Social Systems: Explore how people interact with computing systems and the broader social implications of digital technologies.	**Information Systems:** Build a strong technical foundation through courses in data, infrastructure, and computing systems.

In this guide, you'll discover how the program's flexible curriculum, applied learning opportunities, and career-focused support can help you reach your goals—and beyond.

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CHAPTER 1:

OUR TAILORED-TO-YOU INFORMATION SCIENCE MASTER'S PROGRAM

The MPS in Information Science at Cornell Bowers CIS is built to adapt to your interests, goals, and career ambitions. With no core course requirements and an expansive selection of electives, you'll have the freedom to craft a curriculum that aligns with your unique skill set and desired career path.

NO CORE COURSES AND ENHANCED CURRICULUM OPTIONS

Freed from the constraints of a traditional core curriculum, the MPS in Information Science empowers you to explore what matters most to you.

Whether you're drawn to human-centered computing, back-end architecture, or anything in between, you'll have the opportunity to shape your academic journey to fit your goals. You can even petition to have courses from across Cornell's extensive catalog count toward your degree. In this program, no course is off-limits.

This flexibility allows you to develop strong technical skills while gaining a deeper understanding of the social, behavioral, and ethical dimensions of technology.

The MPS program also allows you to choose from courses spanning the full spectrum of tech disciplines. Notable courses include:

- **INFO 5240: Designing Technology for Social Impact**
- **INFO 5400: Qualitative User Research & Design Methods**
- **CS 5780: Introduction to Machine Learning**
- **INFO 5355: Human Computer Interaction Design**
- **INFO 5390: Practical Principles for Designing Fair Algorithms**
- **CS 5740: Natural Language Processing**
- **INFO 6600: Technology for Underserved Communities**
- **NBA 6921: Artificial Intelligence for Marketing Strategy**
- **INFO 5100: Visual Data Analytics for the Web**

LEADING FACULTY BRIDGING TECHNOLOGY AND HUMANITY

At Cornell Bowers CIS, our faculty are more than instructors—they're pioneers at the intersection of people and technology. Through their research, industry experience, and mentorship, they bring cutting-edge insights directly into the classroom. Get to know a few faculty members who will shape your learning experience and support your professional growth as an MPS student.

Qian Yang

Qian Yang, assistant professor of information science, specializes in human-AI interaction, UX design, and AI applications in high-consequence fields like healthcare and autonomous vehicles. She integrates AI into practical human-computer interaction (HCI) design and innovates tools for UX practitioners.

Aditya Vashistha

Aditya Vashistha, assistant professor of information science, focuses on developing computing systems for social good in low-resource environments. His interdisciplinary work in HCI, information and communication technology (ICT), information and communication technologies for development (ICTD), and accessibility produces large-scale products that have impacted thousands in Africa and South Asia.

Chris Csikszentmihalyi

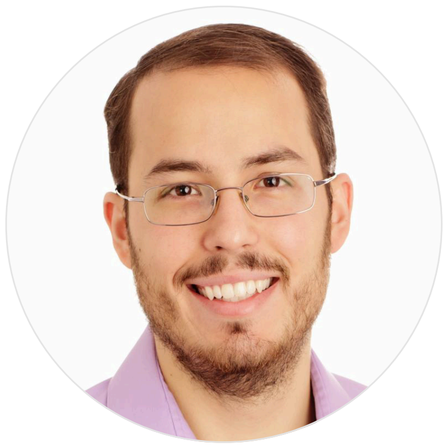
Chris Csikszentmihalyi, associate professor of information science, is an expert in civic media and examines technology's role in strengthening communities. His research focuses on creating media technologies for cultural and political impact.

Sharlane Cleare

Sharlane Cleare, an information science lecturer, researches how learning experiences influence underrepresented individuals' persistence in STEM. Her focus is on broadening STEM participation for people of color and specifically Black women in tech education.

Malte Jung

Malte Jung, associate professor of information science and the Nancy H. ’62 and Philip M. ’62 Young Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellow, researches the intersection of teamwork, technology, and emotion. He leads the Robots in Groups Lab, studying how robots influence group dynamics and informing the design of technologies to support teamwork across various settings.



Benjamin Soltoff

Benjamin Soltoff, a lecturer in information science, specializes in data science, research design, and web design. His political science and computational social science background informs his courses on data communication, social scientific research, and computational methods for knowledge extraction.

Our faculty’s ongoing work in areas like human-AI interaction, civic technology, accessibility, and data science doesn’t just expand the field but transforms the way students learn. With research that directly informs teaching, you’ll engage with the latest tools, ideas, and challenges shaping the future of tech. The result? A learning environment that empowers you to think critically while driving meaningful change in your career.

CHAPTER 2:

YOUR INFORMATION SCIENCE CAREER: A PRIORITY FROM DAY ONE

At Cornell Bowers CIS, your career is a top priority from day one. With a variety of career development resources, you'll benefit from professional development support throughout the program and after graduation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES PREPARE YOU FOR JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN INFORMATION SCIENCE

Rebecca Salk

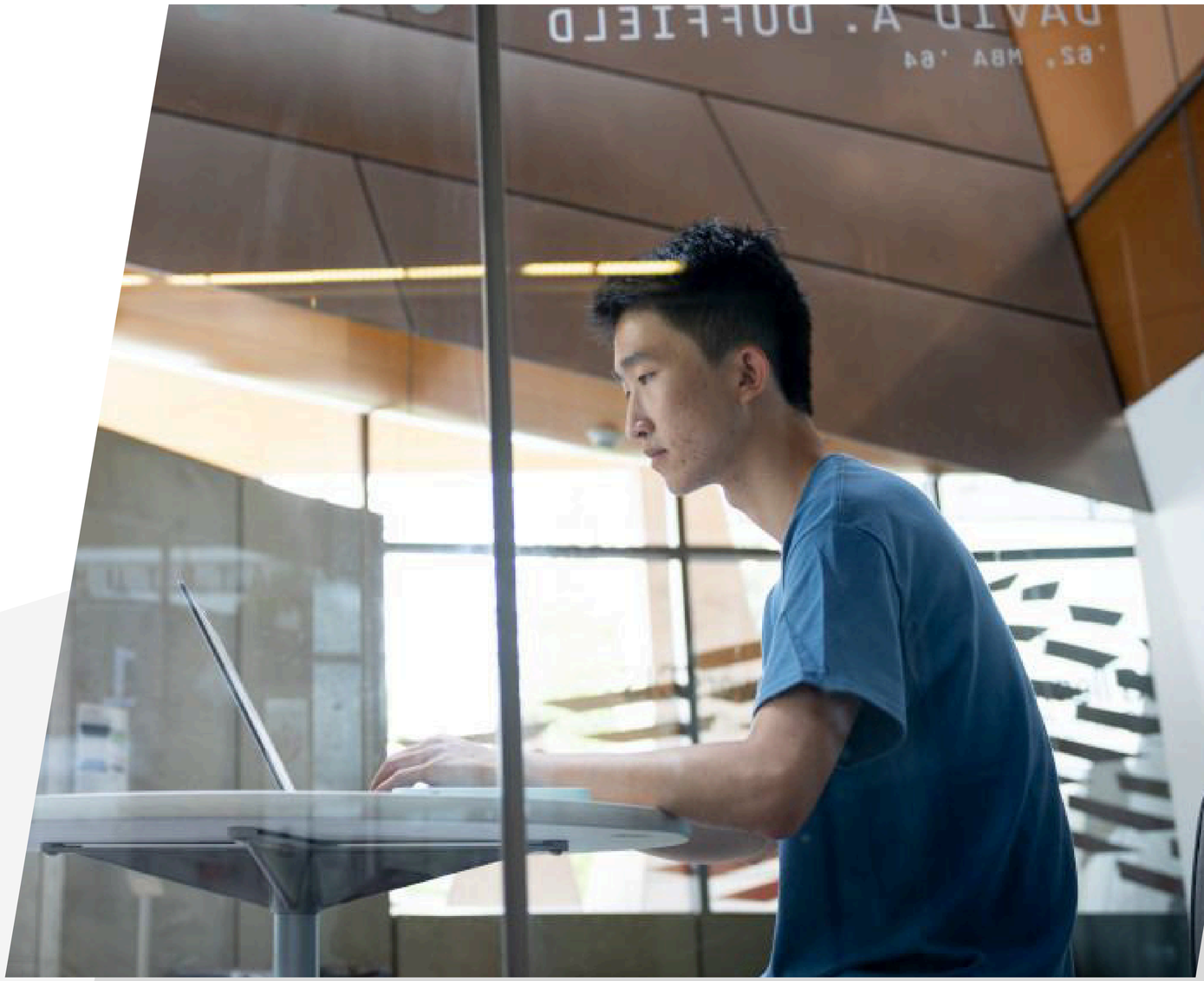
Rebecca Salk, career services advisor for the Department of Information Science, works directly with MPS students, supporting them through the job search and decision-making process. From resumes and cover letters, interviewing, networking, and beyond, Rebecca is passionate about helping MPS students like you prepare for life after Cornell.

MPS students also benefit from career development opportunities embedded into the program curriculum. All students must complete **Professional Career Development (INFO 5905)** before graduation. This requirement may be waived if you have already secured a job offer.

In addition to traditional on-campus professional development resources, students can utilize various networks and associations for career guidance, job search support, and industry insights. As a student in the MPS program, you'll gain access to Cornell's Big Red Alumni Network, a lifelong group of Cornellians from all walks of life, spread across time zones, industries, and generations. When you graduate, you'll join a 250,000-strong alumni community making a difference worldwide.

MPS students are welcome to join student associations like Women in Computing at Cornell (WICC) and Cornell Underrepresented Minorities in Computing (URMC), which offer professional development, mentorship, and community. These groups host events such as workshops, mock interviews, and recruiting sessions, and while they primarily serve undergraduates, graduate students can also benefit from their resources.

With personalized support, built-in career development, and access to a powerful network of peers, mentors, and alumni, the MPS in Information Science sets you up for long-term success. Whether launching your career or taking the next step, you'll be prepared with the skills, confidence, and connections to thrive in a rapidly evolving tech landscape.



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS FOSTER COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION IN THE FIELD

Thanks to strong partnerships with industry leaders, our program integrates real-world insights directly into the MPS curriculum, creating impactful learning and networking opportunities for students.

MPS PROJECT WITH REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS

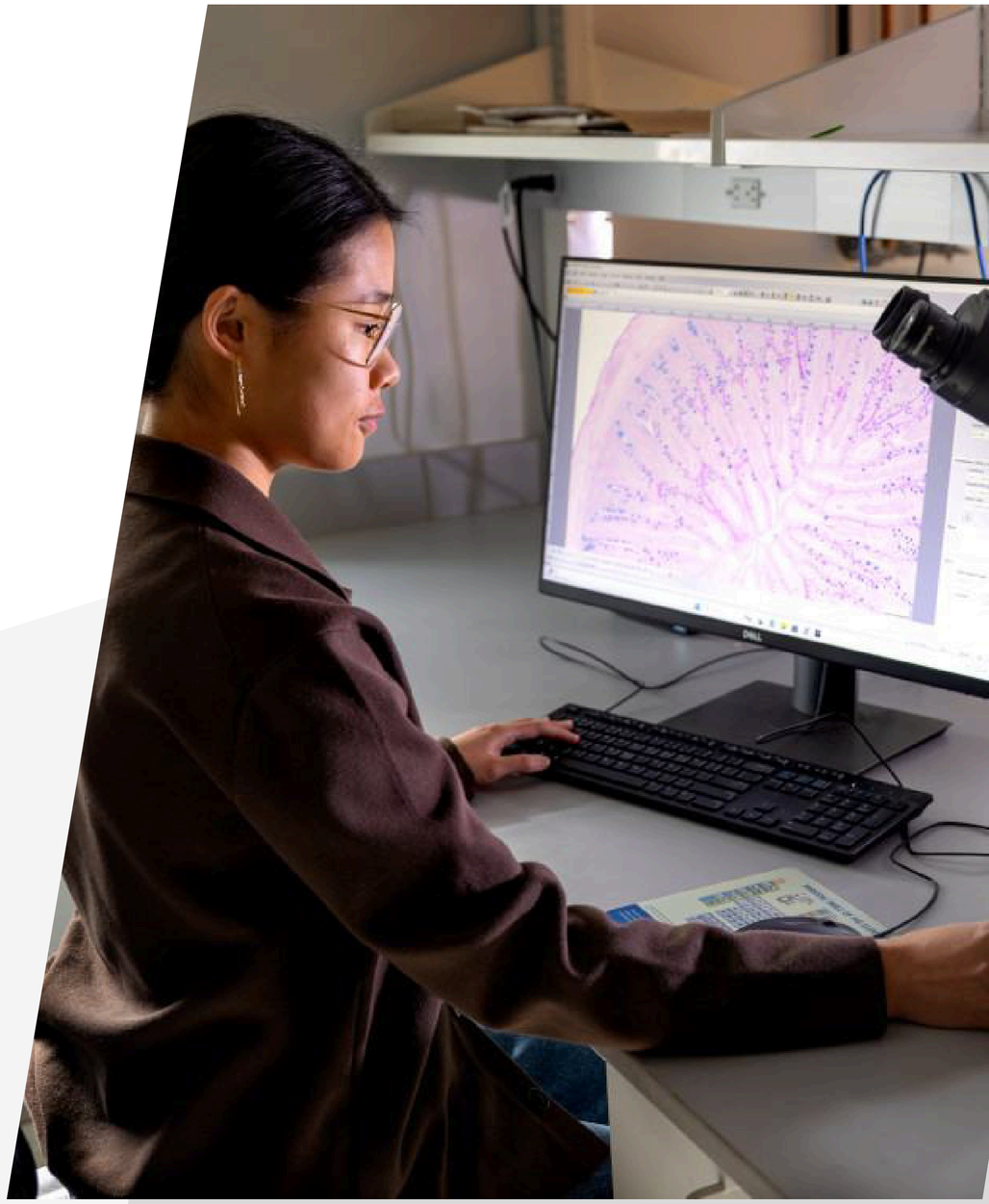
The MPS project stands as a hallmark of the MPS program. Through this capstone experience, you will work with real-world clients to develop tangible solutions to contemporary challenges. Project clients range from Fortune 500 companies and startups to nonprofits and government agencies.

Whether your project has a social and behavioral component, a technological component, or both, it will likely relate to areas like user experience (e.g., user research, design, development, and evaluation), natural language processing, information policy, data science and analytics, machine learning, network analysis, and mobile technologies.

One standout project measured trust in generative AI tools like ChatGPT and Google Gemini. Understanding that users are less likely to use tools they don't trust, an MPS student team created metrics to assess trustworthiness. Through surveys of Google employees and student developers, the team identified accuracy and privacy as the key factors influencing trust. Their findings led to actionable recommendations for enhancing user trust, including offering improved data transparency and enabling users to verify AI outputs, which are at the forefront of today's technological and ethical discussions.

Ultimately, your MPS Project will enhance your technical and collaborative skills, preparing you to make meaningful contributions to the information science industry.

For entrepreneurial-minded individuals, the Digital Technology Immersion (DTI) program pairs MBA students from the Samuel Curtis Johnson College of Business with MPS students from Information Science to collaborate on projects for companies like Google, Amazon, McKinsey, Commonbond, Procter & Gamble, IBM, Salesforce, and more. This sequence fulfills the MPS project requirement for interested students.



OPTIONAL FOCUS AREAS CAN LEAD TO SPECIALIZED INFORMATION SCIENCE CAREERS

Four focus areas exist in the Information Science MPS program to help guide your course selection in a particular skill area. While these focus areas are optional, selecting one can lead to specialization and more job opportunities in a targeted area upon graduation.

DATA SCIENCE

The Data Science focus area empowers you to uncover insights and make informed decisions by analyzing complex data. With statistical methods, machine learning techniques, and data visualization tools, you'll learn to extract meaning from large datasets and apply your findings to real-world challenges.

Examples of data science courses available in the MPS program include:

- **INFO 5312: Data Communications**
- **INFO 5556: Business Intelligence Systems**
- **INFO 6350: Text Mining History and Literature**

Through these courses, you will learn key software and digital tools essential for proficiency in a data science career, including programming languages (Python, Natural Language Toolkit (NLTK), and Apache Spark) and tools for data analysis and visualization (D3 and R).

Common career outcomes of this focus area include roles in data analysis, business intelligence, and data engineering across industries such as finance, healthcare, e-commerce, and technology. In these positions, you will leverage your expertise to extract meaning from data to drive strategic decisions.

USER EXPERIENCE DESIGN

The User Experience focus area prepares you to put users at the center of the research and design process. You'll gain hands-on experience with user-centered design, user research, information architecture, and usability testing, building the skills to design effective and meaningful interfaces.

Examples of user experience courses available in the MPS program include:

- **INFO 5240: Designing Technology for Social Impact**
- **INFO 5355: Human Computer Interaction Design**
- **INFO 5400: Qualitative User Research & Design Methods**

Through these courses, you will learn some of the key digital tools for proficiency in a UX design career, including tools for interface design and prototyping (Figma, Adobe XD, and Sketch).

Common career outcomes of this focus area include roles like UX designer, UX researcher, interaction designer, or user interface (UI) designer in tech companies, design agencies, or user-focused organizations. Here, you will learn to understand users' needs and develop visually engaging, user-friendly interfaces for websites, apps, and digital products.

INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The Interactive Technology focus area emphasizes building and designing digital systems and interfaces that enhance human interaction and engagement. In this track, you will explore emerging technologies, interactive media design, and user interface development.

Examples of interactive technology courses available in the MPS program include:

- **CS 5150: Software Engineering**
- **INFO 6120: Ubiquitous Computing**
- **INFO 5152: Advanced Topics in Computer Game Design**

Through these courses, you will learn some key software and digital tools for proficiency in an interactive technology career, including front-end technologies (HTML, CSS, and JavaScript) and frameworks for interactive media development (React and Angular).

Common career outcomes of this focus area include roles like interactive media developer, front-end developer, or multimedia designer. In these positions, you will develop interactive applications, multimedia content, and web and mobile solutions for companies in diverse industries.

NETWORKS, CROWDS, AND MARKETS

Lastly, the Networks, Crowds, and Markets focus area explores the mathematical and computational foundations behind group dynamics, social networks, and decision-making systems. You will model decision-making and policies to explore concepts like social network analysis, game theory, and computational modeling to understand interactions within systems.

Examples of Networks, Crowds, and Markets courses available in the MPS program include:

- **INFO 5145: Privacy and Security in the Data Economy**
- **INFO 6850: The Structure of Information Networks**
- **INFO 6300: Advanced Language Technologies**

Through these courses, you will learn key software tools for data analysis, network modeling, and statistical computing.

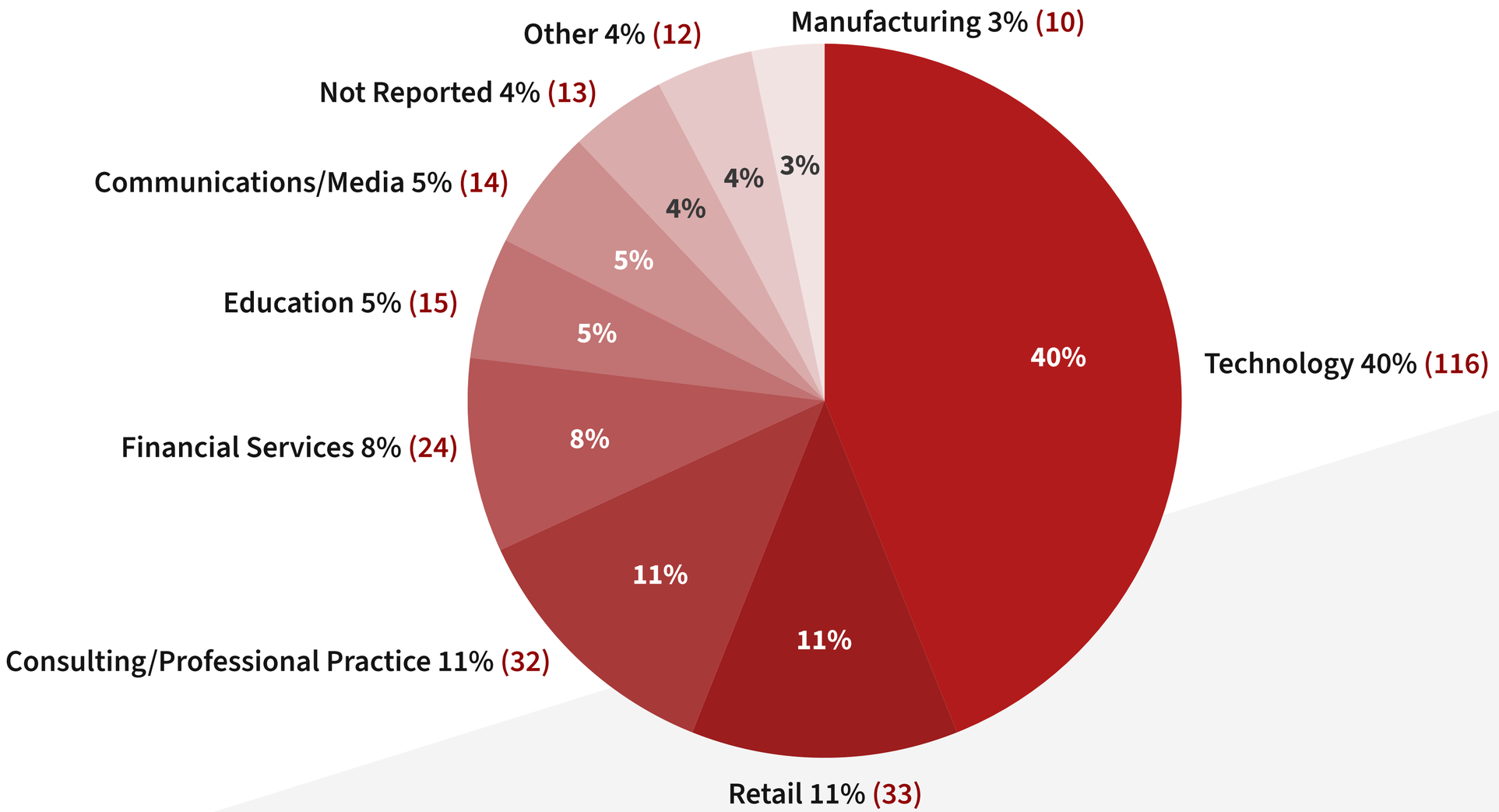
Students who pursue this focus area have commonly secured employment at organizations working in fields like behavioral economics, policy analysis, and social network research, among others.

CHAPTER 3:

INFORMATION SCIENCE JOBS AND BEYOND: WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT POST-GRADUATION

Graduates of the MPS in Information Science program launch rewarding, high-paying careers across industries and locations. From 2020 to 2024, 85% of graduates were employed or pursuing graduate school within six months of graduating. The top jobs among graduates during this time were software engineer, software developer, UX designer, and data analyst.

CLASS OF 2020–2024: EMPLOYER SECTORS



CLASS OF 2020–2024: SAMPLE EMPLOYERS

Amazon	**Morgan Stanley**	**Huawei**	**Deloitte Consulting**	**Meituan**
Alibaba Group	**EY (Ernst & Young)**	**ByteDance**	**Accenture**	**Capital One**

*To view the full list of employers, visit the Cornell Outcomes Dashboard

AVERAGE INFO SCIENCE SALARY

Looking at the industry as a whole, professionals in computer and information technology roles earned a median annual wage of $104,420 in 2023. Within specific focus areas, however, compensation can vary:

Data Science	UX Design & Interactive Technology	Software Engineering	Business Analyst Consulting
$112,590	$92,750	$131,340	$101,190

According to the Cornell Outcomes Dashboard, MPS graduates from 2020–2024 reported an average starting salary of $100,311, closely aligning with national figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for computer and information technology roles. Our graduates also receive generous signing bonuses, averaging $18,338 with a median of $10,000 in 2023.

These outcomes underscore the strong alignment between the Cornell Bowers CIS MPS program in Information Science and industry expectations, reinforcing the tangible value of the education and preparation our students receive.

ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

KENDALL HOFFMAN ’23

Product Manager, U.S. Digital Corps Fellow, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

Kendall Hoffman ’23 didn’t picture a future in tech—until Cornell Bowers CIS MPS program helped her see how information science could intersect with her values. After graduating, she applied the user-centered design principles she learned in her role as a product manager at CISA, where she supported the development of a free, open-source cybersecurity tool for small organizations.

“That education is being used in my job every day. It gave me such a good foundation for seeing how teams get things done.”
- Kendall Hoffman ’23

Kendall joined the MPS through the early credit option, allowing her to begin graduate-level coursework during her undergraduate years in environment & sustainability and information science. For her MPS project, she led a team working with Microsoft mentors to design a cloud-based course registration system.

MATTHEW ROOHAN ’24

Biotech Management Consultant, Qral Group

With a background in animal science and a growing interest in data analytics, Matthew Roohan ’24 used the MPS program to pivot toward consulting in the life sciences. After graduating, he worked at Qral Group, analyzing healthcare data to help pharmaceutical and biotech firms bring new treatments to market.

“The MPS program stands out due to being very hands-on, giving its students special opportunities to work closely with real clients on projects that have an immediate and real-world impact.”

- Matthew Roohan ’24

Matthew’s project experience included a collaboration with Cornell MBA students, developing a go-to-market strategy for Capital One’s authorized user system. His job search success was powered by relentless networking —nearly 300 coffee chats—and career support from dedicated MPS advisor Rebecca Salk.

HANS SUNG ’24

Software Engineer, ASM (Advanced Semiconductor Materials)

After interning with Microsoft Azure in Taiwan, Hans Sung ’24 pursued the MPS to sharpen his skills in software engineering, product management, UX, and data analytics. After graduating, he worked at ASM, helping develop and refine software used in chip manufacturing for top-tier clients like Samsung and TSMC.

“The MPS Project helped me with teamwork and communication skills. During my time at Cornell, I met a lot of people from different backgrounds and learned to speak up, to listen, and to respect other ideas and figure out ways to combine them to meet the team’s goals.”
- Hans Sung ’24

Hans’s MPS project involved a data analytics collaboration with the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) to support genomic research. He credits the program with enhancing both his technical acumen and cross-cultural communication skills in the workplace.

CHAPTER 4:

POWER YOUR FUTURE IN INFORMATION SCIENCE AT CORNELL BOWERS CIS

The MPS in Information Science program at the Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science is a forward-thinking, professionally focused degree that equips you with the skills, experience, and flexibility to thrive. With a customizable curriculum, world-class faculty, industry partnerships, and hands-on career development support, you will be prepared to lead and innovate in roles across information science and technology.

Whether you aim to specialize in UX design, data science, interactive tech, or policy, this program gives you the tools to align your education with your career goals.

READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

Explore our admissions page for deadlines, requirements, and next steps.

WANT MORE INFORMATION BEFORE APPLYING?

Request more information to learn how this program can help advance your career.

Explore the MPS in Information Science Program

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