Office of Community Partnerships Posters

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The UMass Boston Bachelors of Science in Information Technology

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The UMass Boston Bachelors of Science in Information Technology

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Summary/Abstract

The BSIT is a 21st Century degree that supports and extends the BATEC vision of curriculum – advanced in content and pedagogy, regionally-coordinated, and industry-linked.

Program Includes a Common Core of Ten Courses:
(mirroring the core of most community college IT programs)

• four to six courses in one of four specializations:
 - *Business Intelligence* - *Computer Forensics*
 - *Information Architecture* - *System Administration*
• a common capstone course;
• three professional electives.

Every exercise assigned throughout the BSIT emphasizes collaboration, competence, and outcomes assessment. Faculty and business partners regularly participate in professional and curriculum development to ensure the program's continued industry relevance.
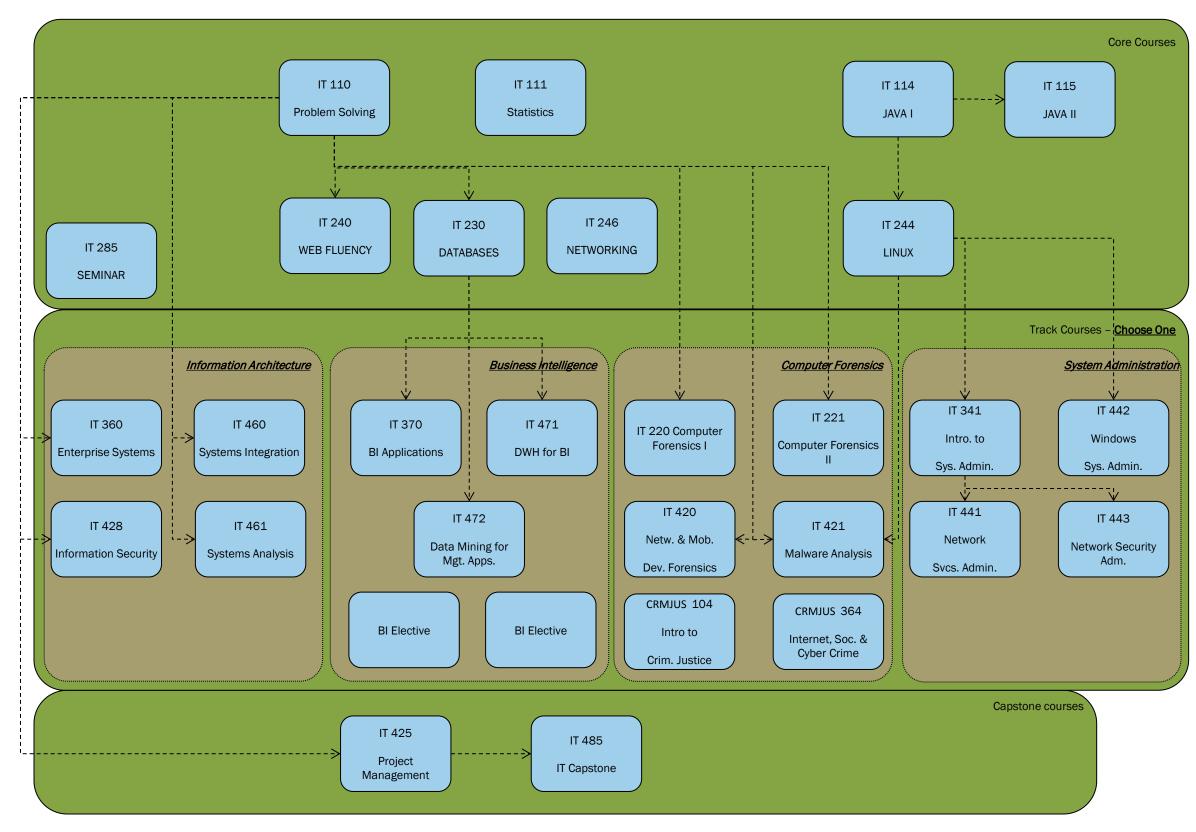
Goals and Objectives

The BSIT provides a seamless transfer pathway from technology related degree programs offered by Massachusetts community colleges into the University of Massachusetts Boston. This degree brought together educators and industry professionals who worked together to fill a significant void for advanced study of technology in the region. Designed to build on the community college associates degree, this degree uniquely connects two UMass Boston departments (CS and MSIS) within the College of Science and Math and College of Management. Utilizing a common body of knowledge with defined outcomes (ACM IT Volume 2008) has been successfully used within this project and has assisted in determining equivalence among and between programs while adding value through stackable credentials.
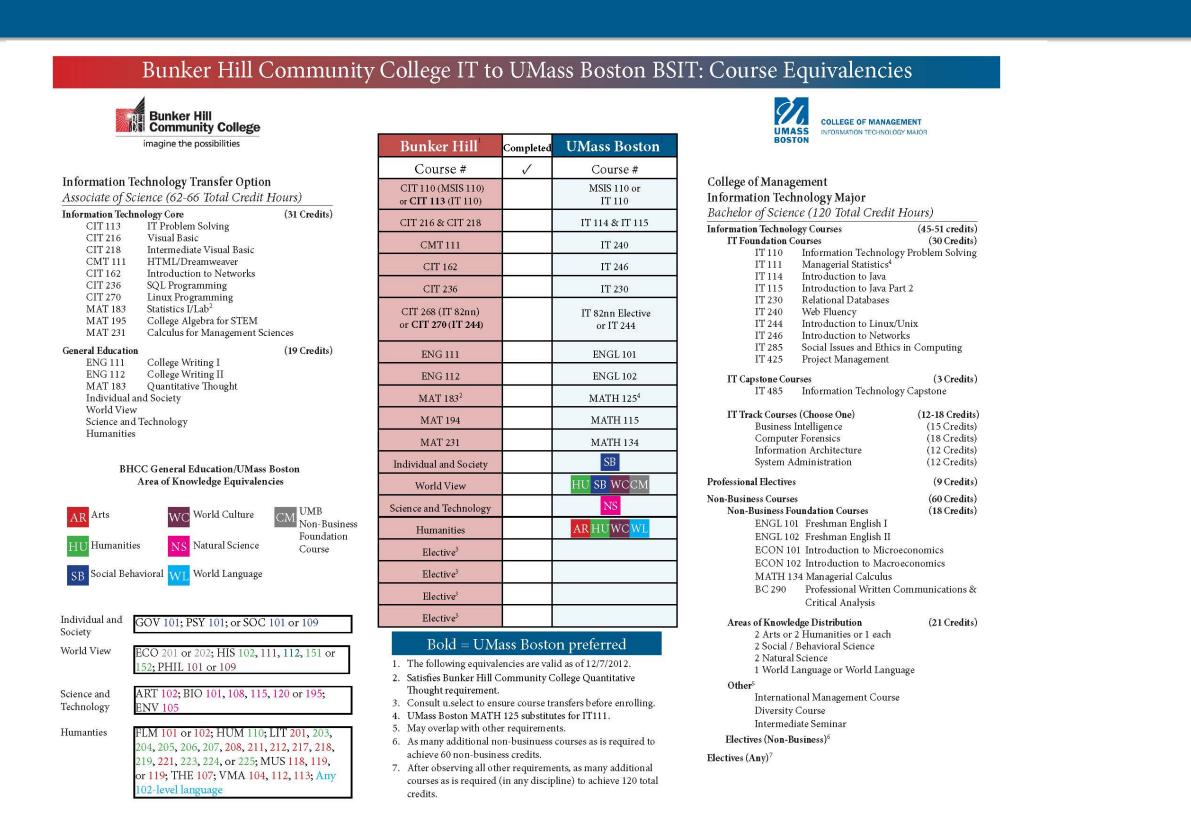
Results/Impacts

The BSIT was approved by the Department of Higher Education in May 2008 and implemented with a start date of Fall semester 2009. Student enrollments have grown from 57 in its first year of implementation to over 285 in its fourth year – and increase of 500%. At present, 14 students have graduated from the BSIT.

Flow Chart of Bachelors of Science in Information Technology Curriculum

Approach: Course Equivalencies

Bunker Hill Community College IT to UMass Boston BSIT: Course Equivalencies

Conclusion/Next Steps

It is important to recognize and act on the interdependencies across the stakeholders at the various education levels. BATEC provided opportunities for collaboration that allowed dialogue and exchange of ideas across the stakeholders and provided a common language for deliverables, implementation strategies and outcomes. The BSIT has allowed students the opportunity to access a high quality degree program that integrated two often divergent cultures – education vs. workplace. New and emerging technologies will continue to provide additional concentrations for the degree and will forge additional partnerships across education, business, government and community.

Additional Partners

Community College Partners:
Paula Velluto, Bunker Hill Community College;
Chiso Okafor, Roxbury Community College;
Priscilla Grocer, Bristol Community College;
Susanne Steiger-Escobar, Mass Bay Community College;
Barry Werner, Middlesex Community College (retired)

Business and Industry Focus Groups:
Raytheon, Staples, Microsoft, IBM, Oracle, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Molecular, Partners Healthcare, Mass Technology Leadership Council