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4-27-2016

## Add Graduate Certificate in Youth Informatics (UTK Notification)

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**TENNESSEE**  
KNOXVILLE

April 27, 2016

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan  
President  
SACS Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033

RE: Notification - Graduate Certificate in Youth Informatics

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is adding a new graduate certificate program in Youth Informatics to be offered by the School of Information Sciences in the College of Communication and Information beginning fall semester 2016.

We do not consider the addition of this certificate program to be a significant departure. While two of the four courses required for the graduate certificate are new (INSC 583 - Introduction to Youth Informatics and INSC 593 - Seminar in Youth Informatics), department faculty currently offer other informatics courses. No new faculty, library resources, or facilities will be needed. Lastly, the graduate certificate addresses five of nine student learning outcomes of the existing Master of Science in Information Science degree program and will be assessed alongside that program.

The graduate certificate in Youth Informatics will enable students to develop knowledge of how youth up to age 21 use and apply technology in diverse settings. Informatics is the science concerned with gathering, manipulating, storing, retrieving, and classifying recorded information using Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Youth informatics is an interdisciplinary area of study that focuses on how people transform technology, and how information technology transforms people. This certificate is designed to provide a supplementary perspective for students already enrolled in graduate programs, and to provide enrichment for members of the community who have a graduate degree, and who wish to gain knowledge of or expand their role in youth services.

Attached are course descriptions for the two new courses, as well as the existing courses (ALEC 510 - Agricultural Leadership Development and INSC 542 - Social Informatics) in the certificate program.

**Office of Accreditation**

527 Andy Holt Tower Knoxville, TN 37996-0152  
865-974-3635 865-974-4811 fax malbrech@utk.edu

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If you have any questions or require additional information from me, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Albrecht', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Mary Lewnes Albrecht, PhD

Attachment

Cc: Dr. Jimmy G. Cheek, Chancellor  
Dr. Susan D. Martin, Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor  
Dr. Michael O. Wirth, Dean, College of Communication and Information  
Dr. Dania Bilal, Interim Director, School of Information Sciences  
Dr. Dixie Lee Thompson, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School  
Dr. Robert J. Hinde, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs  
Dr. Steven M. Sheeley, Vice President, SACS COC

## **(INSC) INFORMATION SCIENCES**

### **NEW:**

- **INSC 583 Introduction to Youth Informatics (3)** Introduces the study of youth informatics. Presents essential concepts of the study of youth and informatics. Explores the connection between youth, technology, and community. Project-driven with intensive experiential learning components.

**NOTE:** This course is an online format and can be delivered in a hybrid mode (on-campus and online simultaneously).

- **INSC 593 Seminar in Youth Informatics (3)** Explores key areas in youth informatics. Seminar includes discussion of basic, applied, and evaluative research and projects at the national and international levels. Covers research trends in youth informatics. Provides a forum for presentation and criticism of past and current research by students.

**NOTE:** This course is an online format and can be delivered in a hybrid mode (on-campus and online simultaneously).

### **EXISTING COURSES FROM 2015-2016 GRADUATE CATALOG:**

**ALEC 510 - Agricultural Leadership Development (3)** Theories of leadership; Identification of styles, and roles of leadership; development of leadership techniques and skills required in working with organizations and youth groups, methods of resolving conflict, of communicating, of guiding and evaluating; ethical considerations for leaders.

**NOTE:** This course is taught on-campus in traditional face-to-face format.

**INSC 542 - Social Informatics (3)** Social consequences of information and communication technologies (ICT) at micro (e.g., personal level), meso (e.g., organizational level) and at macro level (e.g., information society studies), and applications of ICT for businesses, governments, and society are covered by the umbrella term “social informatics.” It is a highly multi-disciplinary area worth exploring, since it will expose you to a range of contemporary global issues and phenomena shaped by ICT-mediated information. Registration Restriction(s): Minimum student level – graduate.

**NOTE:** This course is an online format and can be delivered in a hybrid mode (on-campus and online simultaneously).