Advancing society through the discovery and integration of applied computing technologies that leverage the power of information.
School of Information Technology
UC College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services

Information Technology is a new and exciting field that is transforming almost all sectors of our society. The availability of affordable and connected computing devices continues to enable the evolution of this exciting field. Our approach at the School of Information Technology (SoIT) centers around three main pillars: problem solving, effective communication, and hands-on skills. We view Information Technology as an integral part of every discipline and an essential component of every organization. The SoIT is positioned in the interdisciplinary College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH) to highlight our commitment to integrating Information Technology to solve problems and increase the efficiency and productivity of people and organizations. IT 2019 is a seven year strategic plan that defines and guides our vision. We look forward to partnering with every individual and organization that is interested in seeing this vision turn to reality. We welcome your participation and feedback.

Hazem Said, PhD
School Director
University of Cincinnati Mission Statement
The University of Cincinnati serves the people of Ohio, the nation, and the world as a premier, public, urban research university dedicated to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education, experience-based learning, and research. We are committed to excellence and diversity in our students, faculty, staff, and all of our activities. We provide an inclusive environment where innovation and freedom of intellectual inquiry flourish. Through scholarship, service, partnerships, and leadership, we create opportunity, develop educated and engaged citizens, enhance the economy and enrich our university, city, state and global community.

College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services
The College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services at the University of Cincinnati is a professional college committed to serving schools, agencies, and communities by:
- Preparing students for using best practices
- Creating and disseminating knowledge to further professional practice
- Linking pedagogy and research to learning
- Preparing students to work within diverse communities
- Serving as a model of and a resource for diversity
- Developing a continuing community of life-long learners
- Developing and assuming leadership in professional communities at the local, national, and international levels

School of Information Technology Mission
We empower individuals to become passionate, solution-minded Information Technology professionals by fostering: continuous innovation, research, leadership development, interdisciplinary problem solving and real-world experience.
History
The School of Information Technology (SoIT) at UC traces its roots to several computing technology programs offered across three different colleges. These programs merged to form the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology degree in the fall of 2004. In 2006, the Department of Information Technology emerged as an academic department bound to two different colleges. It finally settled in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH) in July 2011 to support an evolving vision of integrated Information Technology. After a national search, Dr. Hazem Said took the helm as the head on January 1, 2012. The Board of Trustees designated the School of Information Technology on December 10, 2013.

Process
CECH and SoIT began a comprehensive strategic planning process in February 2012, with the help of Barry Morris and Meghan Clarke who led and facilitated the process as expert consultants. The planning continued through November 2012 and involved three phases of input sessions, plan development, and public review. Students, alumni, faculty, staff, academic leadership, advisory board members, and the IT community participated in the input sessions throughout March, April, and May 2012. The strategic planning team, composed of faculty, staff, and advisory board members, worked from June to August 2012 to analyze data from the input sessions and draft a strategic plan. Stakeholders reviewed the plan from September through October 2012. Their feedback was integrated, and the plan was finalized during the advisory board meeting on November 3, 2012.
STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES

STRATEGY 1
Become a Leading Expert in 2 to 4 IT Areas Regionally and Nationally

Priorities

- Define and evolve areas of expertise
  » Cybersecurity
  » IT Sustainability (Virtualization, Cloud, Big Data)
  » Mobile & Social Networking Development
  » Game Development (Entertainment, Educational, Immersive Environments)

- Build interdisciplinary collaborative relations with other disciplines and colleges inside and outside UC aligned with areas of expertise

- Develop and implement research agenda
  » Build research teams around the areas of expertise
  » Improve the quantity and quality of publications

Performance Indicators

- Publications
- Applied Research Impact

STRATEGY 2
Become A Center of Innovation For Information Technology Education Regionally and Nationally

Priorities

- Create graduate programs
- Increase accessibility through online delivery of courses and programs
- Evolve and diversify programs for non-majors, such as the IT Minor, IT certificates, and IT general education offerings
- Develop ongoing pathways/collaborations with regional, national, and international institutions
- Achieve ranking in the top 10 undergraduate programs
- Establish centers of excellence in the areas of expertise
- Establish programs to empower students to earn major industrial certifications related to the strategic areas

Performance Indicators

- Faculty Development
- Program Competitiveness
- Program Ranking
STRATEGY 3
Be A Great Place to Learn and Innovate

Priorities
- Attract and retain best faculty
- Build an engaged alumni network
- Develop and increase scholarship funds
- Develop programs for corporate sponsorships
- Increase the participation of faculty members in personal development activities
- Develop 21st-century IT leaders
- Raise the bar:
  » Increase the average GPA
  » Increase the number of students with GPA above 3.5
  » Increase the number of national scholars in the freshman class

Performance Indicators
- Retention and Graduation of IT Major Students
- Student, Faculty, and Staff Satisfaction
- Revenues
- Teaching Innovation

STRATEGY 4
Increase Awareness of the Information Technology Discipline

Priorities
- Establish up-to-date communication outlets to the different stakeholders
- Increase participation of students and faculty in regional, national, and international events
- Develop ongoing marketing campaigns
- Establish partnerships with professional associations
- Increase out-of-state and minority student enrollment and access

Performance Indicators
- Head Count
- Student Diversity
STRATEGY 5
Increase the Quantity and Quality of Collaborative Relationships within and outside the University

Priorities

- Increase the profile of the IT Solutions Center
- Make the co-op experience more focused on the strategic areas and more beneficial to companies
- Foster relationships with corporations for research and development
- Empower technical innovations through the IT Innovation Lab
- Ensure employability of students (within 1 year of graduation)
- Establish advanced interdisciplinary programs

Performance Indicators

- Grants
- Retention and Graduation of Minor and Certificate Students
- Student Competitiveness
- Applied Research Impact
We are grateful to the following students, alumni, faculty, staff, IT professionals, and local and regional leaders for their valuable contribution and input throughout this process.

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