IUSB creates informatics minor

By MARGARET FOSMOE
Tribune Staff Writer

SOUTH BEND -- Beginning this fall, students at Indiana University South Bend will be able to earn a minor in informatics.

Informatics, the study and application of information technology, is a new field.

The minor is intended to serve the needs of students who want a broad understanding of information technology, including how it applies to other disciplines, said Ruth Schwartz, associate professor of computer science and IUSB's interim director of informatics.

"The idea behind informatics is it's for everybody. It's a cross-disciplinary program," she said.

Informatics is intended to teach students how to understand the impact that technology has on people, to develop new uses for technology and to apply technology in other fields.

IU last year established the nation's first School of Informatics, based in Bloomington and Indianapolis. IUSB has permission to grant a minor in the discipline, with hopes of expanding the offerings to eventually include a major.

Informatics can be helpful in a number of different careers, including technical writing, Web page design, medical fields or office management, Schwartz said.

The minor consists of five courses, three lower-level and two upper-level electives in informatics and/or the student's major field of study.

Although many IUSB students already have selected fall courses, it's not too late to sign up for informatics courses. Schwartz said she'd like to see at least 24 students enrolled during this first year.

For more information, call (574) 237-6521 or see this Web site: www.informatics.iusb.edu.

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