Educational goals of the School of Informatics

With the evolution of the information society, it will be important to foster outstanding manpower that can support the information infrastructures in Japan, which professes to be a “technological nation.” The goal of the School of Informatics is to provide a grounding in a wide variety of information technologies related to the recording, accumulation, sharing, processing, and use of knowledge and information, as well as the sciences that represent the fundamental principles behind those technologies. We will provide a comprehensive education in the human intellectual activities that are supported by information technologies, and in the social and cultural foundations of those activities, thereby fostering individuals that will play an essential role in the creation of the 21st century.

College of Information Science

Goals of Education

As an institution that pursues scientific principles and engineering technologies for the creation, transmission, conversion, and maintenance of information, which is the driving force behind our modern society, the goal of the College of Information Science is to promote an understanding of the basic principles behind information and information technologies and to open up new technological fields. We will foster individuals who, rather than pursuing the superficial development of technologies, will have an understanding of the history and directions of those technologies, and will contribute independently to the growth and enhancement of information technologies with a view toward their potential for the future.

Description of education and teaching methods

The College of Information Science offers education in the most advanced information sciences and technologies based on a 30-year history and tradition of opening up new fields of information sciences in Japan. The teaching staff at this College, comprised of researchers who are active on the cutting edge of global research activities, is among the best in the Japanese information field in terms of both quality and the number of instructors on staff. This team of instructors provides the underpinnings for an educational system that enables students to benefit from studies with great breadth and depth, in fields ranging from hardware to software.

Unique features of education

- The curriculum offers an outstanding balance of a broad range of basic knowledge and deep specialized knowledge in the field of information technologies.
- The College offers practical education with an emphasis on practical studies, experiments, and seminars.
- Specialized courses have been prepared to draw out the individual capabilities of each student.
- Courses have been established in collaboration with the community and the industrial world to increase specialization and communication skills.
- Graduation research is tied into advanced research and education in the University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering.

Levels to be achieved

Students will acquire the following skills and qualifications, so that they can play a role in the advancement of the information society in the 21st century:

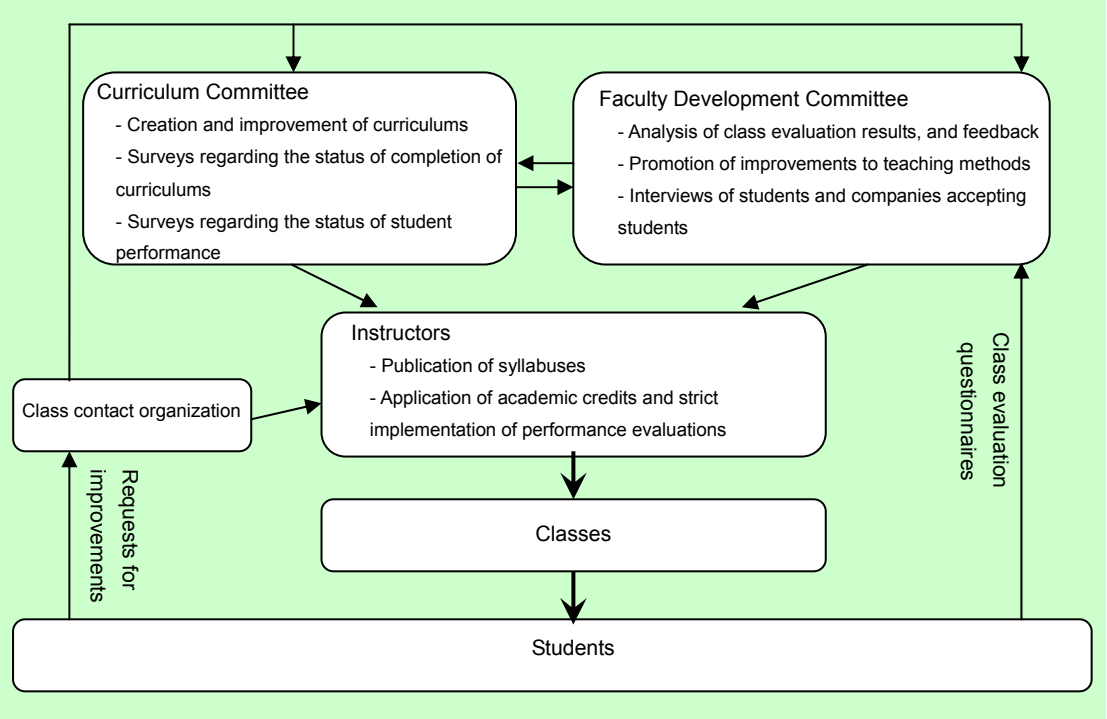
■A rich grounding in information sciences and a strong sense of social ethics

■A desire to take on new challenges, and the exceptional creativity required to create innovative technologies in the field of information sciences

■Practical technical skills and problem-solving skills that will support society's information infrastructure

■Communication skills, a spirit of cooperation, and a global perspective that will enable students to play a role in international activities

Guaranteed quality of education



■All classes are monitored using class evaluation questionnaires conducted by the Faculty Development (FD) Committee. This questionnaire is comprised of standardized questions along with a column in which students can enter comments freely. It is designed to gather comprehensive and detailed information on the state of affairs with regard to classes, instructors, and the students themselves. The FD Committee analyzes the results of the questionnaires gathered, offers feedback to the instructors and the Curriculum Committee, and provides notification if there is a need for improvements. It also conducts research into improvements in teaching methods and interviews of graduates and companies accepting students, and uses this information as reference when providing feedback.

■Requests from students are passed on to the teaching staff, for example through Class Contact Organization meetings held several times per year. The Curriculum Committee and the FD Committee take responsibility for responding to these requests.

Paths taken after graduation

There are very promising prospects for students graduating from the College of Information Science with an expectation of playing an active role at the core of the information society. Looking at the paths taken by students graduating from the original College (prior to 2007), about 30% took up employment, while about 71% went on to graduate school.

College of Information Science
(the original College, prior to 2007)

Approx.70%

Graduate School Master's Program:
University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering, etc.

Approx. 20%

Graduate School Ph.D. Program:
University of Tsukuba Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering, etc.

*The College of Information Science was reestablished as a new College following a reorganization of Colleges in 2007. The above figures relating to the paths taken by students are thus based on records from the original College of Information Science, as part of the Third Cluster of Colleges.