Information and Knowledge Strategy

Optimizing organizational outcomes through data-driven, collaborative leadership

What We Are

The most productive organizations are strikingly similar. They make smarter decisions based on better information and create cultures of excellence. The M.S. in Information and Knowledge Strategy program develops leaders who are prepared to guide such organizations. Graduates master essential skills in collaborative leadership, strategy, entrepreneurship, design, digital transformation, and change management, enabling them to optimize organizational decisions, increase productivity, and impact all levels of organizations across all sectors.

Core Competencies

Build skills that are immediately applicable to your workplace, including how to:

- Design and innovate knowledge-driven digital products
- Create and lead high-performing teams
- Enhance collaboration inside and outside your organization
- Compete on analytics
- Leverage strategically important organizational knowledge
  - Accelerate mission-critical knowledge sharing
  - Improve productivity by embedding knowledge in smarter business processes
  - Support your organization’s knowledge-sharing strategy with the right technology
  - Turn knowledge into marketable assets
- Lead digital transformation and facilitate effective change management
- Develop a customer-centric approach to your work
- Build human networks that provide support, opportunity, and purpose

Career Snapshots

Our students and graduates achieve positions such as these:

- Senior Manager, Process Reengineering, American Express
- Senior Manager, Amgen
- Global Knowledge Lead, BCG Digital Ventures
- Executive Director, Business Integration Partners
- Vice President, Digital Learning Solutions, JPMorgan Chase
- Principal Consultant, McChrystal Group
- Global Account Manager, Medidata Solutions
- Director of Operations, National Basketball Players Association
- Director of Operations, NYC Department of Education
- Founder and CEO, Smart Alto (Y Combinator W17)
- Senior Counsel, Digital/Technology, Vanguard
- Knowledge Management Officer, World Bank Group
- Senior Knowledge Manager, Harvard Business Publishing
- Senior Manager, General Dynamics

“The program helped me understand who needed to know what, where, and when so that we could be much more effective and efficient as an organization.”

Ben Royce | ’13SPS, Information and Knowledge Strategy
Lecturer, Business Development, Cloud AI Services, Google

Apply Online sps.columbia.edu/ikns
Faculty with Industry Experience
Our faculty have held leadership positions at global organizations including these:

- Accenture
- Bain & Company
- Ernst & Young
- Google
- IBM
- NASA
- Oliver Wyman
- Publicis Sapient
- The World Bank
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Navy

The Capstone Project
Under the guidance of program faculty, you will apply your skills and knowledge through a group capstone project for a leading for-profit or nonprofit organization.

Sample Capstone
Collaborate with NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center to evaluate NASA Flagship Missions and offer considered strategies for their successful execution. Capstone students will explore what is currently known about Flagship Missions and the challenges they face, recommending methods for improvement and valued outcomes within the context of the future of work. Past sponsors also include Nestle, UNDP, Pfizer, Thomson Reuters, Nike, and many more.

An Accelerated Degree for Professionals

Study While Employed: Yes
Time Commitment: 16 months to 3 years, part time
Study Format
- part-time online and on-campus instruction
- classes by HD video conferencing one weeknight per course
- multi-day residencies on Columbia's campus in New York

Tailor Your Courses
Customize your learning experience by selecting 4 electives from over 45 pre-approved courses including options from Columbia Business School, School of Engineering (SEAS), the School of International Public Affairs (SIPA), the Mailman School of Public Health, and more.

Applied Analytics
Digital Product Entrepreneurship
Enterprise Risk Management
Human/Machine Collaboration
Leading Cross-cultural Global Organizations
Negotiation and Conflict Resolution
Project Management
Strategic Communication

“As a Silicon Valley entrepreneur, IKNS provided me with the skill set to develop and commercialize knowledge-driven products.”

Mary Palmieri  |  ’15SPS, Information and Knowledge Strategy
Founder and CEO, The Beauty Marketplace Inc.

Campus Residencies
Students come together on Columbia’s campus for two in-person residencies during the course of their studies. Students meet for their first residency as a part of the Foundations course and again during the Capstone Project Seminar. These required, multi-day residencies offer curated programming to enhance online learning, apply theory to practice, and allow for networking opportunities among students, faculty, alumni, and thought leaders.

Who Should Apply
Leaders and decision-makers hungry to achieve positive change throughout their organizations.
Mid-career professionals with a demonstrated capacity for executive roles who want to develop the leadership skills and presence necessary to achieve their next major professional milestone.
Experienced executives who seek not only premier credentialing but also exposure to diverse perspectives and leading-edge practices from peers and thought leaders outside their regular networks.
Entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs with the drive and resourcefulness to transform ideas into actions.
Knowledge management practitioners who want to expand their horizons and enrich their practical experience with a grounding in relevant research.

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