New major offers bright horizons for computer science grads

Vermilion staff report

The Louisiana Board of Regents approved a new informatics master's degree program to begin in the 2018 spring semester, according to a University of Louisiana at Lafayette press release.

Prospective graduate students interested in informatics — a study of how information is spread among individuals using applied computer science — with science or engineering bachelor's degrees related to informatics can apply. The program has a 33-hour curriculum and can be completed by a full-time student in about two years.

"One of the most exciting aspects of our new master of science in informatics program is the fact that it is truly interdisciplinary, as information technology is used today in virtually every area," said Michael Totaro, Ph.D., associate professor in the school of computing and informatics.

This program is met with an influx of technology jobs in Louisiana. A number of technology companies have sprung up or expanded across the state, including IBM in Baton Rouge, CenturyLink in Monroe and General Electric in New Orleans. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected an increase in computer science and technology jobs in the state over the next decade at a "higher-than-average" rate.