

One College Essay, Information Technology

Augsburg's Information Technology organization advances the mission of the College by **providing an online framework** which has become an important component of our vibrant, modern learning community. Much like city planners who organize the resources of a physical community, Information Technology (IT) works closely with the college community to plan, build and support an online framework for Augsburg upon which we communicate, enroll, learn, teach, research, and manage.

Although the mission of Augsburg is reflected and advanced fundamentally by the content itself—what we write, who we enroll, how we teach, etc., -- IT is an important partner to departments, faculty, staff and students, ensuring the effectiveness and fit of this framework. Like an effective city plan, the IT infrastructure must address community values, site-specific realities, Augsburg's history, its aspirations and its opportunities.

To ensure the mission-supporting effectiveness and fit of the IT framework, the IT organization **works collaboratively with other units** to realize the strategic, catalyzing impact that information technology can have on teaching & learning, community building, and administrative operations. The IT department is in fact organized around this collaborative work, employing a model of technology liaisons (LFC's) who are responsible for understanding and supporting the unique needs of our many academic and administrative departments. These collaborations often go far beyond the traditional boundaries of an administrative college department. Recent examples include our new collaboration with the Center for Teaching and Learning, aimed at creating an effective instructional design service; IT's leadership on the AQIP initiative to improve teaching/learning spaces; and a partnership with Marketing & Communications to provide a new events and news framework for the college website.

Its organizational structure is one of the ways that IT strives to **model excellence and innovation** for other departments, for our students and for other IT organizations. The IT department employs a team of student workers and aims to directly support their vocational development. Our unique internship program helps prepare students for work in the IT profession.