

# Appendix A: Interview Questions, Focus Group Guide, and Surveys

## Student Survey

1. Did you complete the new (IT) curriculum or the old (management) curriculum? If old, skip Question 2.
2. How prepared do you feel the IT courses have prepared you for your career in HIM? (highly prepared, prepared, unsure, unprepared, highly unprepared)
3. What area(s) of HIM are you planning to pursue?
4. Are you satisfied with the curricula that you are completing in the HIM program?
5. What courses in the curriculum do you feel will be most helpful to your career?
6. What courses in the curriculum do you feel will be least helpful to your career?
7. Overall, how do you feel the HIM curriculum prepared you for your career? (highly prepared, prepared, unknown, unprepared, highly unprepared)
8. Do you have other comments or suggestions regarding the HIM curriculum at ISU?

## Student Focus Groups Guide

1. Did you choose your curriculum sequence? If yes, why?
2. How do you feel about the courses that you are taking in your curriculum sequence?
3. What challenges have you faced with this sequence, academic or otherwise (course difficulty, scheduling, time to graduation, etc.)?
4. What area(s) of HIM are you interested in pursuing?
5. How do you feel this sequence is preparing you for the area(s) of HIM that you want to pursue?
6. How do you see yourself using the skills you have learned in this sequence in your career?
7. Do you feel that you will be lacking in any skills?
8. What improvements would you recommend for the ISU HIM program?
9. What advice would you give to students considering the HIM program at ISU and going into the HIM field?

## Graduate Survey (to be given at six months or one year after graduation)

1. Did you complete the new (IT) curriculum or the old (management) curriculum? If old, skip Question 2.
2. Did you feel the IT courses prepared you for your career in HIM? (highly prepared, prepared, unsure, unprepared, highly unprepared)
3. Did you feel the Data Analysis course (HSC 300) prepared you for your career in HIM? (highly prepared, prepared, unsure, unprepared, highly unprepared)
4. What is your current job? Where is this job?
5. How did you feel that the HIM curriculum at ISU prepared you for your current job?
6. What do you see as the strengths of the new curriculum?
7. What do you see as the weakness of the new curriculum?
8. What part of the curriculum did you feel was the most helpful in your career?
9. What part of the curriculum did you feel was the least helpful in your career?
10. Overall, how do you feel the HIM curriculum prepared you for your career? (highly prepared, prepared, unknown, unprepared, highly unprepared)
11. What advice would you give to students considering the HIM program at ISU and going into the HIM field?
12. Do you have other comments or suggestions regarding the HIM curriculum at ISU?

## Employer Survey

1. What do you see as the most essential skills for your employees to possess prior to employment?
2. What do you see as the most essential skills for your employees to learn on the job?
3. How important are IT skills for employees that you hire?  
(very important, important, somewhat important, not important)
4. What IT skills are most important?
5. How important are data analysis skills for employees that you hire?  
(very important, important, somewhat important, not important)
6. What data analysis skills are most important?
7. Have you had ISU students complete their senior professional practice in your department? (yes, no)
8. Do you have ISU graduates as current employees in your department? (yes, no)
9. Have any of the senior professional practice students or employees completed the new curriculum in ISU's HIM program? (yes, no, unknown) (If no, skip to question 9.)
10. Do you feel that the new IT/data analysis curricula has better prepared these students/employees for the HIM field? (yes, no)
11. Are you pleased with the professional preparation of these students/employees? (yes, no)
12. Overall, how do you feel the ISU HIM curriculum has prepared students for their HIM career?  
(highly prepared, prepared, unknown, unprepared, highly unprepared)
13. Please comment on specifics regarding these students'/employees' preparation.
14. Do you have other comments or suggestions regarding the HIM curriculum at ISU?

#### **Employer Interviews**

1. What is your current position?
2. How often do you use IT skills in your position? What kinds of IT skills?
3. How have you learned the IT skills you use?
4. How often do you use data analysis skills in your position? What kinds of data analysis skills?
5. How have you learned the data analysis skills you use?
6. Have you had ISU HIM students as professional practice students? If so, approximately how many? How recently?
7. Have you hired ISU HIM graduates? If so, approximately, how many? How recently?
8. How prepared do you feel ISU students/graduates are for the HIM field?
9. What areas do you feel they are well-prepared in?
10. What areas do you feel they are not well-prepared in?
11. Have you had ISU students as professional practice students or hired ISU graduates who have completed the new curriculum?
12. How prepared do you feel these ISU students/graduates are for the HIM field?
13. In what areas do you feel they are well-prepared?
14. In what areas do you feel they are not well-prepared?
15. How do you feel that the new curriculum is providing students with appropriate IT skills for the HIM field?
16. How do you feel that the new curriculum is providing students with appropriate data analytic skills for the HIM field?
17. Are there any other thoughts you would like to share regarding ISU students'/graduates' preparation for the HIM field?