Innovation.

Its catalyst is passion—a combination of imagination and persistence that inspires certain people to look forward and go beyond what is.

It is the process of looking at the world through a different lens to find solutions to big problems.

It leads to new products and novel approaches to doing business.

Innovation is one of the most powerful societal and economic engines we have—and it needs a special type of fuel.
Human Sciences—The IIT Way

Human sciences enable us to explore and explain the world at a time when technological innovation frames the world in which we live. Sciences help us discern opinion from evidence, fact from truth. If disconnected from the human context, however, sciences and technology have little meaning or relevance.

IIT Lewis College of Human Sciences rests at the nexus of knowledge, methods for discovery, human thought, and action. Innovation and creativity abound at the intersection of the disciplines. The college challenges students to think deeply and learn about our complex world through a technologically-focused education that emphasizes the free spirit and broad perspectives traditionally found in the liberal arts and social, organizational, and behavioral sciences. We educate our students to work on compelling human problems and support their pursuit of careers that will make a difference to others. Our faculty is dedicated to bridging the gap between theory, research, and use, and between ideas and applications. We instill in our students an understanding of what it means to work hard to make a better world.

The launch of Lewis College is fueling synergistic opportunities for research and cross-disciplinary programs in the humanities, social sciences, and psychology, allowing us to partner with IIT Stuart School of Business and other IIT colleges. Our work promises to reshape the university by attracting a diverse population of students and expanding the focus and enrollment of IIT. We invite your support and engagement in our endeavor to bring this exciting vision to life.

A Focus on Relevance and Our Social Surroundings

Our students study their chosen fields as a scientist with an investigative, discerning eye, developing a capacity for logical thought and inference, addressing hard questions, and working to find strong solutions. This approach advances their skills in areas such as evaluation, research, data analysis, and communications, and teaches them how to solve problems and think critically. Lewis College faculty are dedicated to bridging the gap between theory, research, and use, and between ideas and applications. Our faculty partner with students on significant research projects, offering students opportunities to work on real-world challenges such as:

- Interventions that leverage technology to promote healthier living
- Social media and networks; tools for online discussions, virtual organizations, and the analysis of societal trends
- Technology’s effects on human development, economic growth, and socio-cultural factors in emerging countries
- The relationship between individual health outcomes and psychological factors such as depression,

The college now turns to its alumni and friends to provide critical resources to attract the most-promising students, improve laboratories and classroom space, attract and retain top faculty, and support new learning and research initiatives. With your help, we can increase scholarships and fellowships, provide faculty support through endowed chairs, build research, and improve facilities in which the college can thrive and grow. Please consider joining our efforts with a gift that fuels human science innovation at IIT and beyond.

Preparing Innovators in Human Sciences

It takes a quantum leap to fuel ideas, build talent, and make a difference when educating the innovators of today and tomorrow. IIT Lewis College of Human Sciences aims to partner with other disciplines; provide excellent programs, facilities, faculty, and internship and research opportunities; and expanded avenues for student learning and engagement.

Finally, Lewis College provides support for the development of the Interprofessional Projects (IPRO) Program by enhancing idea generation, team functioning, and instruction, maximizing the impact of this signature, interdisciplinary academic program.

Lewis College builds on the strength of already highly regarded graduate programs such as the Department of Psychology’s Rehabilitation Counseling Program, ranked as one of the top 10 master’s programs in the United States. Lewis College is home to the Leadership Academy, a university-wide initiative that develops the leaders and entrepreneurs of tomorrow, and the Kedge program, which helps talented but struggling undergraduate students overcome challenges and succeed. The college emphasizes novel instructional methods and administers the university-wide Center for Disability Resources, the Center for Research and Service, the Writing Center, the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions, and the Social Network Collaborative.

The college seeks to educate our students fully, not just train them for jobs. Ever mindful of the need for gainful employment for all people, we offer programs aimed at developing a career and the ability to transform across time through lifelong learning, adaptability, and contextual grounding. Our graduates offer what employers want: smart, hardworking, creative, productive adults who can work independently and in teams to develop solutions. Depth of knowledge, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills enable our students to compete and win against talented peers.

A Foundation of Distinctive Programs

Anxiety, illness cognitions, and treatment motivation
- Privacy in our wired and wireless world
- Expectations and reactions to rehabilitation engineering and implant technology, preparing for the first human trial of an intracortical visual prosthesis
- Behavioral analytics, statistical measurement, employee recruitment, and organizational safety and health, as well as the role of emotions in learning, with applications to automated tutoring systems
- Science and technology policy, international relations, the global political economy, policy and relations in Korea and Taiwan
- The development of human communication; methods for the study of small social networks
- Our digital world as the realms of gamification, visualization, multimedia, and text from across the eons expand

With a background in scientific thinking, honed through mentoring and research opportunities, Lewis College students graduate with a distinctive talent for critical thinking.

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