
THE MACOMB DAILY

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OU offers IT program at Mount Clemens center

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Oakland University will expand its footprint in Macomb County next fall when the institution begins to offer a four-year degree in information technology through the Anton-Frankel Center in Mount Clemens.

“This is a major that’s in high demand, not only in Macomb County but in southeastern Michigan,” said Louay Chamra, professor and dean of the school of engineering and computer science at Oakland University.


“This is a great opportunity for the people in southeastern Michigan and the community of Macomb County ... We’ve tried to offer classes in such a way that (students) get the whole bachelor’s degree in information technology at the Anton Frankel Center.”

Information technology covers a broad range of computer-related disciplines, such as data mining and data analysis, Chamra said.


Nearly every major industry employs persons with IT training, he said, and a recent graduate with a bachelor of science in IT could expect to earn \$55,000 to \$65,000, the dean said.

"IT is an integral part of any company, Chamra said.


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The introduction of an IT program at the Anton-Frankel Center is the latest foray by Oakland University into Macomb County. Since the university opened the facility in 2010 in the former Towne Center II building in downtown Mount Clemens, programs and enrollment has grown annually.

About 700 students pursue degrees or course work in several subject areas including business, public administration, criminal justice and social work.

The Anton-Frankel Center is part of what the university calls Oakland University-Macomb, which also includes higher education opportunities at the Macomb University Center and the Macomb Intermediate School District, both in Clinton Township.

"The goal is to bring a high-quality Oakland University degree to the people of Macomb County," said Betty Youngblood, executive director of OU-Macomb.

Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel welcomed the news of Oakland's expanded offerings.

"OU is really making its mark," Hackel said. "I think it adds a lot more value to Macomb County."

Combined with Macomb Community College and other institutions of higher learning, Hackel said he's confident the county will produce graduates with the skills business and industry demand.

"People do want to invest in Macomb County and this region," Hackel said.