

UNIVERSITY OF MORATUWA, SRI LANKA

Performance Criteria
for the
Bachelor of Science Honours in Information Technology

Effective from the 2021/2022 Intake

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1 ADMISSION

1.1 Admission Requirements

1.1.1 The admission requirements to the Degree of Bachelor of Science Honours in Information Technology (Abbreviated BScHons (IT)) are determined by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in accordance with the government policy on university admissions.

1.1.2 Admissions will be for the commencement of the first semester of the programme and only full-time students would be admitted.

2 PROGRAMME OF STUDY

2.1 Programme Details

2.1.1 The programme of study leading to the BScHons (IT) degree comprises the following components:

- (i) An academic programme extending over eight semesters (designated as Semester 1 to Semester 8) over four academic years.
- (ii) An industrial placement within the programme.
- (iii) Any other work: camps, training modules or projects.

2.1.2 The normal duration of academic work (including reading weeks, examinations) in a semester is 20 weeks and the minimum duration of industrial placement is 24 weeks.

2.2 Academic Calendar

2.2.1 The academic calendar will usually consist of two semesters during an academic year. An academic year starts with the commencement of any odd-numbered academic semester and ends at the end of the next even-numbered semester.

2.2.2 The academic calendar will be available on the Faculty website.

2.3 Modules

2.3.1 Modules are categorized into four levels of academic progression (1 to 4).

2.3.2 Course modules are compulsory (core) or elective (optional).

2.3.3 Modules may have pre-requisites that need to be completed prior to registering for those modules.

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2.3.4 Pre-requisites for a module may only be from a lower level of academic progression. However, co-requisites from the same level may be allowed provided that the relevant module(s) is/are being offered to all relevant students.

2.3.5 In each of the categories in 2.3.2, there are GPA modules (which are taken for the computation of the GPA) and Non-GPA modules.

2.3.6 Detailed information is made available in the Student Handbook.

2.4 Credits

2.4.1 Each module is assigned a credit value representing the student's workload.

- (i) For a typical module extending over one semester, one credit is given for each hour of academic lectures per week or two hours of assignments such as tutorials, laboratory work, fieldwork or design work per week.
- (ii) The industrial placement of 24 weeks duration is assigned six credits. Any extra length of industrial placement will not be assigned additional credits.
- (iii) Modules that cannot be covered under (i) and (ii) above, such as design projects, other projects and other specified course work and camps, are assigned credit values proportional to the respective workload.

2.4.2 The modules offered in a given semester and the number of credits assigned to each module will be determined by the Faculty, details of which are available in the curriculum.

2.5 Academic Load

2.5.1 The academic load of a student (norm) in a semester differs depending on the guidelines specified by the Faculty Board.

2.5.2 Irrespective of the norm specified for any semester, the maximum number of credits (i.e., upper limit) a student could register during any semester is 26 credits.

2.5.3 In order to consider a student as full time, the minimum requirement is 12 credits for a semester, except in Semester 6, for which the minimum requirement is 8 credits. This limit is considered for scholarships, semester-based awards, etc. Students on industrial placement are also considered full time.

2.5.4 There is no lower limit for the credits required in a particular semester, however, if a student deviates from the norm for a semester, it should be done with the consent of the Academic Advisor.

2.5.5 Students are required to register for modules prior to the commencement of the semester (meeting the specified deadline) to satisfy the normal academic load specified in any semester. However, with the consent of the relevant Academic Advisor, a student may be permitted to deviate from the norm within the specified credits limits. The additional modules may include the previously taken modules repeated for purposes of passing or upgrading the final grade.

Recommended by the **By-laws Committee on xxxxx**

Approved by the **Senate on xxxxxx**

2.5.6 The academic progress of a student may be determined by the number of maximum and minimum credits a student can earn in each semester given in Table 1. In semesters 1,2,3,4 and 6, all modules are compulsory.

Table 1. Academic Load of a Student.

Semester	Total Credits	
	Maximum	Minimum
1	21.5	21.5
2	15.5	15.5
3	20	20
4	16	16
5	22	17
6	21	21
7 and 8	40	17.5

3 REGISTRATION

3.1 Academic Advisors

3.1.1 Each student, on enrollment, will be assigned an Academic Advisor from among the members of the academic staff of the Faculty.

3.1.2 Students are required to consult and obtain the consent of their respective Academic advisors prior to applying for registration at the beginning of each semester or term. The students are also required to consult and obtain the Academic Advisor's consent prior to adding or dropping modules after registration, voluntary leave of absence from the course and change of academic load.

3.1.3 A student may appeal to the Dean through the Head Department of Information Technology when not in agreement with the Academic Advisor.

3.2 Registration for each Academic Year or Semester

3.2.1 At the commencement of each academic year, students are required to register and pay any fees as may be required by the University.

3.2.2 Students must register for modules that they wish to follow during a semester through the online registration system, in consultation with the Academic Advisor.

3.2.3 At the end of the module registration period, the Undergraduate Studies (UGS) division will send a printed copy of the initial module registration details to Departments.

3.2.4 An "Add-Drop period" of specified length will be given at the commencement of a semester to change module registrations as per clause 3.3.1. The length of the Add-Drop period will be specified by the Faculty and is usually two weeks.

Recommended by the **By-laws Committee on xxxxx**

Approved by the **Senate on xxxxxx**

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3.2.5 The UGS division will send the final module registration details to each department after the Add-Drop period, for students to confirm by placing the signature.

3.2.6 In situations where the number of applicants for an elective module is more than the number of places available, such places would be allocated on the basis of the Current Grade Point Average of the applicants or any other suitable criteria approved by the Faculty until all places are filled. In case when registration for a particular module is not possible, a student will be permitted to register for alternative modules.

3.2.7 In situations where a compulsory module is offered in both semesters of the same level of academic progression, the respective department offering the module would allocate students from among the applicants for each semester.

3.2.8 A student repeating the end-of-semester written assessment or the continuous assessment of a module is required to complete the repeat registration prior to the end of the Add-Drop period of the respective semester, and, if necessary, register for that academic year.

3.2.9 Each student is responsible for the completeness and accuracy of his or her module registrations as per the student registration procedure set by the Faculty and for registering prior to the set deadlines.

3.2.10 It is the responsibility of the student to plan and select the modules as required to satisfy graduation requirements.

3.2.11 A student who has completed successfully the graduation requirements set out in clause 5.2 will not be permitted to register for any new module(s). However, upgrading of modules as per clause 4.3.3 may be permitted on written application by the student.

3.3 Changes to Registration for each Semester

3.3.1 A student who wishes to de-register from a module and or register for an additional module should do so within the Add-Drop period of that semester in consultation with the Academic Advisor.

3.3.2 De-registration of compulsory modules, even during the Add-Drop period, will be allowed only under exceptional circumstances and should be approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the Head of the Department of Information Technology and the Dean of Faculty of Information Technology. Such compulsory modules must be subsequently completed in order to be eligible for the award of the Degree.

3.3.3 Discontinuing a module after the Add-Drop period will not be allowed and considered as an attempt, even if the student does not face any assessments and or examinations in that module unless the module is withdrawn as specified in clause 3.4.

3.3.4 A student who wishes to take an additional module or a replacement for a deregistered module may do so within the Add-Drop period of the semester. In either case, the consent of the Academic Advisor would be required for the change. Under exceptional circumstances, late registration may be permitted subject to a penalty by the Faculty of Information Technology, with the concurrence of the lecturer in charge of the module and the Head of the Department.

3.4 *Withdrawal of a Module Registration*

3.4.1 A student can request to withdraw a module after the Add-Drop period subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The relevant Academic Advisor and the Head of the Department of Information Technology should recommend the request;
- (ii) Requests for withdrawal will not be entertained for compulsory modules and modules for which registration was done on a competitive basis;
- (iii) Withdrawn modules will appear in the transcript as “Withdrawn”, and will not be counted for in the GPA calculations;
- (iv) Withdrawal requests should be made on or before the last day of classes of the relevant semester;
- (v) Withdrawal from a module does not form the basis for adding a replacement module at the time of such withdrawal; and
- (vi) If a student later decides to register for a withdrawn module, he or she will be considered as a repeat candidate with a grade F for that module for the first attempt.

3.4.2 Requests for withdrawal should be approved by the Senate on the recommendation of the Head of the Department and the Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology.

3.5 *Leave from Academic Activities*

3.5.1 The following categories of leave from academic activities are available to students:

- (i) Leave for Long Durations and
- (ii) Leave for Short Durations, complying with the conditions specified in clauses 3.5.2 to 3.5.9.

3.5.2 Leave for Long Duration: A student may apply for this category of leave when he or she has to be away from academic work for a long period due to medical reasons or circumstances deserving compassionate consideration. The duration of leave a student could apply under this category is a combination of full academic semesters subject to the maximum limit of one academic year.

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3.5.3 Leave for Short Duration: A student may apply for this category of leave, when he or she has to be away from academic work for a short period for compelling reasons including but not limited to, conferences, competitions, sports, community services, company start-ups, family commitments and medical grounds. The maximum duration a student could obtain leave under this category is 21 calendar days per 15 weeks semester or 14 calendar days per 10 weeks term. It is the student's responsibility to consult the respective examiners in order to make arrangements such that the leave obtained does not affect any of his or her Continuous Assessment requirements.

3.5.4 Leave will be granted according to the By-Law No. 14 (By-Law Related to Conditions of Residence and Discipline of Students).

3.5.5 In the case of a student travelling abroad, the Vice Chancellor, upon the recommendation of the Senate, may grant leave

3.5.6 Any approved Leave for Long Duration will add-on to the minimum period for the completion of the Degree (the minimum period of study will be extended by adding the long-duration leave).

3.5.7 Only Leave for Long Duration granted under medical grounds will be added on to the maximum period for the purpose of awarding classes and the maximum period for the completion of the Degree (the maximum period for the award of classes and completion of Degree will be extended by adding only the long-duration medical leave).

3.5.8 Under exceptional circumstances, the Vice Chancellor, upon the recommendation of the Senate, may grant Leave for Long Duration for circumstances beyond the provisions of Clause 3.5.2. The Senate may also recommend the period of leave granted be added-on to the maximum period for the purpose of awarding classes and the maximum period for the completion of the Degree.

3.5.9 All leaves that fall during end-of-semester written assessments will be granted according to By-Law No. 15 (By-Law for Conduct of Examinations); and the student shall apply separately for the same following the guidelines therein.

3.5.10 The cumulative leave period of Medical and Short Duration Leave per academic semester or a term should not exceed the period that affects the attendance requirement in order to complete the semester or term.

4 EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE

4.1 Participation in the Programme

4.1.1 The study programme is conducted on a full-time basis and satisfactory participation in the course is compulsory.

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4.1.2 A student is required to have a minimum attendance requirement (normally 80%) in lectures; the student should also complete all assignments including laboratory work, tutorials, quizzes, presentations, term papers, project work, training, camps and similar activities to the satisfaction of the module requirements.

4.1.3 It is the responsibility of the student to submit module assignments, course work, reports, and similar documents before the deadlines stipulated by the lecturer in charge of the module.

4.1.4 If a student is required to be away from academic work, he or she shall apply for leave in accordance with clause 3.5.

4.2 Evaluation

4.2.1 The Council and Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty of Information Technology will approve the examiner(s) and a moderator for each module conducted in a semester.

4.2.2 The performance of each student in each module will be evaluated by continuous assessment (CA) and end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment.

4.2.3 The weightage of each of the components (CA and end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment) used in the determination of the final grade for each module is as approved by the Senate. The weightage of each assessment component will be informed to the students at the commencement of each module by the examiner or the department. For repeat candidates, the current weightage of each component of the module should be used in determining the final grade.

4.2.4 The continuous assessment of a student may be based on a specified combination of assignments including laboratory work, tutorials, quizzes, presentations, term papers and participation in the course activities. The CA component in a module normally carries a weightage of not less than 30% of the total marks, except in training placement, camps, research projects and other similar modules, where the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment may be replaced by another form of end-of-module evaluation as approved by the Senate.

4.2.5 A student who does not obtain a minimum of 35% of the marks assigned for the continuous assessment portion prescribed for a particular module, and/or does not satisfy the attendance requirement (normally 80%) will not be eligible to sit for the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment of that module and will be given the grade F.

4.2.6 A minimum requirement of 35% should be obtained from the written component of the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment in order to obtain a grade D or any higher letter grade for the course module.

4.2.7 A student who is unsuccessful at the the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment would be given a grade "I". A repeat candidate who has an I grade will be given a grade based on the marks obtained at the end-of-semester assessment and marks obtained previously for continuous assessment, subject to a maximum of a grade "C".

4.2.8 A candidate with a grade "F" will need to complete both the continuous assessment and the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment.

4.2.9 The highest grade obtainable at a repeat attempt is the grade C, except in the following cases: (i) When an Academic Concession has been granted for the particular module; (ii) When the Senate has granted approval for a particular subject module to be upgraded or improved at a repeat attempt to a grade higher than C and has specified the method for computing such grade.

4.2.10 A Board of Examiners, appointed by the Council, comprising examiners and moderators of all the modules relevant to a particular semester of the programme, will meet at the end of that semester to decide on the performance and the academic standing of each student registered for that semester of the programme.

4.3 Grading System

4.3.1 Letter grades based on the Grade Point system and corresponding description, as illustrated in Table 2, will be used to express the performance in each module.

4.3.2 The letter grades shall satisfy the following criteria:

- (i) The grade D or above is required to earn credit for a module.
- (ii) A student satisfying continuous assessment requirements and failing the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment receives an incomplete grade I.
- (iii) A student receiving an F grade must repeat both the continuous assessment and the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment components. The maximum grade awarded for repeating a course module will be a C, and it will be used for calculating Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA).
- (iv) The grade N signifies Academic Concession granted with the approval of the Faculty, in the event a student is unable to sit for the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment due to illness or other compelling reasons. In such instances, the student must make an appeal, with supporting documents, to the Dean for an Academic concession strictly following the procedures laid out by the Senate. CA component can be carried forward to the next examination as the first attempt. The grade is not counted in the calculation of the SGPA.

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- (v) The grade W indicates a module withdrawn by the student with the approval of the Faculty and the Senate. The grade is not counted in the calculation of the SGPA. If a student later decides to register for a withdrawn module, he or she will be considered as a repeat candidate with an F grade for that module.
- (vi) The grades F, I, D or C- can be improved up to a grade C, and in specific instances defined by clause 4.2.8 to a grade higher than C and considered for calculating SGPA. Students who wish to upgrade, need to complete the module requirements and obtain the upgraded grade before the relevant final Board of Examiners.

Table 2. Grade Point System

Benchmark Percentage	Grade	Grade Point	Description
85 and above *	A+	4.00	
75 to 84 *	A	4.00	Excellent
70 to 74 *	A-	3.70	
65 to 69 *	B+	3.30	
60 to 64 *	B	3.00	Good
55 to 59 *	B-	2.70	
50 to 54 *	C+	2.30	
45 to 49 *	C	2.00	Pass
40 to 44 *	C-	1.70	Weak Pass
35 to 39 *	D	1.00	Conditional Pass
34 and below	I	0.0	Incomplete
	F	0.0	Fail
	P	---	Pass (Non-GPA courses)
	N	---	Academic Concession
	W	---	Withdrawn

* Both WE and CA components not less than 35%.

4.3.3 The grade achieved for each module will be entered on the student's performance record. Any subsequent upgrade to any grade will override the grade obtained at a previous attempt in the performance record.

4.4 Semester Grade Point Average

4.4.1 All GPA modules are accountable for calculating the Grade-Point Average.

4.4.2 The calculation of the SGPA will be based on the summation of Grade Points earned for all modules registered for credit (except those awarded with an academic concession or withdrawn) in a semester weighted according to the number of credits as per the following formula:

$$SGPA = \frac{\sum n_i \times g_i}{\sum n_i}$$

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where n_i is the number of credits for the i^{th} module in a given semester and g_i is the grade points earned for that module.

4.4.3 The Grade Point Average is rounded to the nearest second decimal place.

4.4.4 The SGPA is reported in the Statement of Results that may be issued for each semester.

4.5 *Unsatisfactory Standing and Academic Progression*

4.5.1 Students whose SGPA falls between 1.50 and 1.99 will be placed on Academic Warning.

4.5.2 Students with an SGPA of less than 1.50 will be placed on Academic Probation.

4.5.3 Academic Probation and or Academic Warning may be withdrawn when the relevant SGPA is upgraded to 2.00 or more.

4.5.4 Students on Academic Warning or Academic Probation who fall into one of the following categories due to failure to upgrade the SGPA will not be permitted to register for a new module until the SGPA improves as required

- (i) $SGPA < 1.50$ in any two semesters (02 Academic Probations),
- (ii) $SGPA < 1.50$ in any semester (01 Academic Probation), and $1.50 \leq SGPA < 2.00$ in any two semesters (02 Academic Warnings),
- (iii) $1.50 \leq SGPA < 2.00$ in any four semesters (04 Academic Warnings).

4.6 *Current Grade Point Average*

4.6.1 The Current Grade Point Average (CGPA) describes a student's current standing in terms of all modules registered for credits up to a given point in time, weighted according to the grades assigned to each module.

4.6.2 Uniform weightage is given for each semester for the calculation of CGPA.

4.7 *Overall Grade Point Average*

4.7.1 The Overall Grade Point Average (OGPA) is the final standing of the student calculated on the basis of CGPA of all the registered modules.

4.8 Non-GPA Modules

4.8.1 Of the total credit requirement for graduation, a maximum of 15 credits could be earned through modules designated as Non-GPA (NGPA) modules as indicated in the Senate approved curriculum.

4.8.2 Six NGPA credits should be earned from the 24 weeks of Industrial Training.

4.8.3 The grades earned for NGPA modules will not be taken for calculation of the SGPA, CGPA, OGPA or in the award of Classes.

4.9 Classes

4.9.1 Awarding of Classes is determined upon the completion of all the graduation requirements within five academic years, with an OGPA as indicated in Table 3.

4.9.2 For a student considered under clause 3.5 and or a student with exceptional circumstances, who has satisfied the OGPA requirement but has taken longer than five academic years to complete the course requirements may be deemed to be eligible for the award of a BScHons (IT) degree with a class by the Senate on the recommendation of the Faculty.

Table 3. Award of Classes

Overall GPA	Academic Standing
3.70 or above	First Class
3.30 – 3.69	Second Class – Upper Division
3.00 – 3.29	Second Class – Lower Division
2.00 – 2.99	Pass

4.10 Academic Concession

4.10.1 A student who has missed a the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment or any other course requirements because of illness or other compelling reason may appeal with supporting documents to the Dean of the Faculty for an Academic Concession, for the approval of the Senate.

- (i) In case of an the end-of-semester Written Exam (WE)/ Assessment, the student should submit an application with supporting documents within the time period specified from the date of an examination, under the clause on Absence from Examination of the By-Law No. 15: Conduct of Examination.
- (ii) In instances where a student misses any other course activity such as CA, the student should submit the application with supporting documents before the last date of academic activities of the relevant semester.

4.11 Dean's List

Full-time undergraduate students, as specified by clause 2.5.3, who achieve the following will be recommended by the Board of Examiners to be included in the Dean's List and such a placement will appear on the student's transcript:

- (i) SGPA of 3.80 or higher and have completed a minimum of 12 GPA Credits on a letter-graded basis during the semester considered, have no I or F grades for any module, whether GPA or NGPA, and have no disciplinary action against them;
- (ii) SGPA of 3.80 or higher in Semester 6 and have completed a minimum of 08 GPA Credits on a letter-graded basis during the semester, have no I or F grades for any module, whether GPA or NGPA, and have no disciplinary action against them.

Students on academic concession also need to earn the minimum number of credits to be considered for the Dean's List for the semester for which academic concession has been obtained. Those who obtain an improved grade(s) subsequently, by repeating a module(s), will not be placed on the Dean's List.

5 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Minimum Residence Time

A student enrolled for the BScHons (IT) degree has to follow a programme of study as a full-time student for a period extending over a minimum of four academic years.

5.2 Credit Requirements

A candidate should satisfy the following requirements in order to be admitted to the BScHons (IT) degree:

5.2.1 A minimum total of 150 credits including a minimum of 135 GPA credits, from the modules specified for the degree programme. The credits earned should be in accordance with those specified in the curriculum for the BScHons (IT), as approved by the Senate.

5.2.2 A minimum overall GPA of 2.00.

5.2.3 Completion of any other mandatory requirements prescribed by the Faculty.

5.3 Maximum Allowed Duration of Study

5.3.1 A candidate will not qualify for the award of the BScHons (IT) degree, if the graduation requirements are not satisfied within eight academic years from the date of first registration.

5.3.2 Under medical grounds, the Senate may grant permission to extend the duration of study beyond the maximum allowed duration, by an amount not exceeding the leave approved on medical grounds.

5.3.3 Under medical and other exceptional circumstances, the Senate may grant permission to extend the duration of study beyond the maximum allowed duration.

5.4 *Modules from Other Institutions*

5.4.1 Normally, students are expected to complete their programs through modules taken at the University of Moratuwa. Students who wish to take a module elsewhere should obtain written permission from the Senate through the Faculty of Information Technology before registering for such course modules, to ensure that credits earned are acceptable for graduation.

5.4.2 The student is responsible to ensure that an official transcript with grades obtained is forwarded directly to the Head of the Examinations Division of the University of Moratuwa in order to be included in the student's performance record. To receive credit, normally, a minimum grade of C (equivalent to at least 45%) must be obtained for a module.

6 EFFECTIVE DATE OF AWARD

The effective date of the award of the degree shall be reckoned as the last day of the month of the satisfactory completion of the graduation requirements, as confirmed by the Senate, and set out in Section 5 of this performance criteria.