



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Commission Circular No. 08 /2018

No. 20, Ward Place,
Colombo 07.

28th August, 2018

Vice Chancellors of Universities
Rectors of Campuses
Directors of Institutes

Classification of Computing Degrees to Align with International Standards

The University Grants Commission (UGC) at its 992nd meeting held on 09th August, 2018 has decided to revise the Commission Circular No. 995 to implement the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Computing to align all Computing Degrees with ACM/IEEE International Guidelines. The main objective of this formalization is to standardize the Computing Degrees in order to be on par with international standards, recognition and reputation of Computing Degrees in the State Universities.

ACM/IEEE Curriculum Guidelines are revised from time to time considering the changes in the field and they are published at the respective websites of those two professional organizations. It will be the responsibility of relevant Higher Educational Institution/s (HEI/s) to follow the latest version of guidelines when preparing or upgrading the curriculum of Computing Degrees. The Computing Standing Committee will announce the versions of guidelines with respect to Computing Degree Programmes together with its effective date in order to consider when evaluating a new proposal for a Computing Degree Programme. When a HEI/s makes a major revision of its Computing Curriculum, it is required to obtain the concurrence of University Grants Commission through the Computing Standing Committee.

Major Degrees in Computing

According to the ACM/IEEE Guidelines, all Computing Degrees are classified into five major areas as mentioned under (A) below. The subject benchmarks for these Computing Degrees are based on the corresponding ACM/IEEE Guidelines for Computing Degrees.

(A)– Five major areas (sub-disciplines) of Computing

Computer Engineering
Computer Science

Information Systems
Information Technology
Software Engineering

For a Degree Programme to be considered as a Major Degree in Computing, its curriculum should cover at least 60% of credits from core courses (knowledge areas) as specified in the ACM/ IEEE guidelines from one of the areas stated under (A) above.

Joint Major Degrees in Computing

Joint Major Degrees in Computing as stated in (B) below should have at least 40% of credits from core courses from one of the five major areas of Computing given in (A). At least 40% of credits out of the balance 60% should be from another area of study from which the Joint Specialization will be studied.

(B) - Classification under Joint Major Degree

Joint Major with Computer Engineering
Joint Major with Computer Science
Joint Major with Information Systems
Joint Major with Information Technology
Joint Major with Software Engineering

It is strongly suggested to name the Degree Programmes based on these classifications and the joint specialization study area. Degree name should reflect both subject areas of study.

New Degree Programmes or Major Revision in Degree Programme

HEIs should take into consideration the following when designing curricula for new Degree Programmes in Computing or revising current Degree Programmes in Computing;

1. When HEI/s makes a major revision to their Computing Curriculum, it should obtain the concurrence of the University Grants Commission through the Computing Standing Committee.
2. Applications could be submitted in the UGC approved format for Undergraduate Degree Programmes
 - i. To introduce new Degree Programme in Computing following ACM/IEEE Guidelines.
 - ii. To revise existing Computing Curriculum and/or to align with ACM/IEEE Guidelines.
 - iii. To change the name of the Degree Programme.
3. HEI/s should have in place adequate permanent internal academic staff with necessary qualifications in order to offer more than 50% credit requirement of the Computing Courses in the Degree Programmes defined under A and B.
4. Student who has followed any stream in G.C.E. Advanced Level may be offered a place in an identified Computing Degree Programme. The HEI/s should define and

complement the necessary subject background required for the relevant Degree Programme.

5. All Faculties offering Degree Programmes in Computing (Major or Joint Major) are required to take action as per this Circular by aligning all existing Computing Degree Programmes with international standards within a period of two years from the date of this Circular and report to the UGC through the Standing Committee on Computing.
6. All Faculties offering Degree Programmes in Computing (Major or Joint Major) are encouraged to obtain the relevant professional accreditation for the Degree Programme.

The said guidelines could be downloaded from the UGC website: www.ugc.ac.lk

The Commission Circular No.995 dated 28th September 2012 is hereby rescinded.

Please take action accordingly.



Prof. Mohan de Silva
Chairman

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