UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Commission Circular No. 995

No. 20, Ward Place,
Colombo 07.

28th September, 2012

Vice Chancellors of Universities
Rectors of Campuses
Directors of Institutes

Classification of Computing Degrees to align with International Standards

The University Grants Commission at its 854th meeting held on 26th July, 2012 has decided to implement the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Computing **to align all computing degrees with ACM/IEEE international guidelines.**

Accordingly, all computing degrees have been classified into **five major areas** in accordance with ACM/IEEE guidelines. In addition to five major areas mentioned under (A) below, there is a classification for **joint major degrees** in computing with at **least 40% of core from one of the five major areas** mentioned under (B) below and the **balance 60% can be from any field outside the field of computing.**

(A) - Major five areas of computing
   Computer Engineering
   Software Engineering
   Computer Science
   Information Systems
   Information Technology

(B) - Classification under Joint Major Degree
   Joint major with Computer Engineering
   Joint major with Software Engineering
   Joint major with Computer Science
   Joint major with Information Systems
   Joint major with Information Technology

Guidelines have been set up for above 10 broad areas. Core modules coming under those areas are clearly given in guidelines with minimum number of hours to be covered. Having covered the core, universities are given flexibility to select various elective modules, projects etc.. to meet the requirements of the respective degree programmes. In addition, universities which conduct joint major degrees have the freedom to offer elective computing modules and core modules from other major areas and projects etc..

Contents of each Core module are given in annexure 1-10

Proposed guidelines can be used,

(A) to revise existing computing curriculum to align with ACM/IEEE Guidelines
(B) to introduce new degree programme in computing following ACM/IEEE Standards

It must be noted that Universities and Higher Educational Institutes should take into consideration the following when designing curricula for new degree programmes on computing;

1. Only Students from **physical science** stream at the GCE (A/L) Examination are allowed to offer Degrees in **Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Software Engineering**

2. Students from any stream could offer Degrees in only Information Technology and Information Systems

3. Only students from physical science stream can offer Joint major Degrees with any one of the five computing areas; Computer Engineering ,Software Engineering, Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Technology

4. Students from any subject stream could offer Joint major Degrees only with Information Technology and Information Systems

Please take action as per this Circular and the Guidelines attached hereto;

1. To align all existing computing degrees by complying with international standards within a **period of one year from the date of this Circular and report back to the UGC**

2. To follow international standards when designing new degree programmes in Computing. This requirement has to be fulfilled in addition to the standard proposal format to be submitted to the Commission to commence a new degree programme

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

(Prof. Gamini Samaranayake)
Chairman

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