ITEC625
Fundamentals of Computer Science
S2 Day 2018
Dept of Computing

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General Information

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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MInfoTech or MEngg or MSc or MDataSci

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit studies programming as a systematic discipline and introduces software design methods. Programming skills covered include control structures, functions, elementary data structures and low level programming. There is a strong emphasis on problem solving and algorithms, including aspects of correctness, complexity and computability.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
1. Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms
2. Implement programs (from algorithms), showing an understanding of the underlying architecture of the computer
3. Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)

4. Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

**General Assessment Information**

**Late Submission**

Approval for late submissions will be done on a case by case basis. By default, late submissions are not accepted unless you experience unavoidable disruption, in which case, please submit a Disruption to Studies notification with appropriate evidence.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Practical Exam 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 7 workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical Exam 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Week 12 workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:45, Friday ending week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>23:45, Friday ending week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Practical Exam 1**

**Due:** Week 7 workshops  
**Weighting:** 15%

The practical exam will assess students on topics from weeks 1 to 6.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms
- Implement programs (from algorithms), showing an understanding of the underlying architecture of the computer
- Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)
- Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/98061/unit_guide/print
Practical Exam 2

Due: Week 12 workshops  
Weighting: 25%

This is a hurdle assessment task (see assessment policy for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)

The practical exam will assess students on topics from week 1 to week 11. This is a hurdle exam. In order to pass the unit, you must have,

1. at least 50% in this assessment (12.5 out of 25)  
2. a raw mark of 50 or more overall

If you get more than or equal to 10 and less than 12.5 marks in this exam, you will be given a second chance. This exam will be scheduled in week 13 Friday workshop.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms  
• Implement programs (from algorithms), showing an understanding of the underlying architecture of the computer  
• Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)  
• Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

Assignment 1

Due: 23:45, Friday ending week 6  
Weighting: 5%

This will be a programming assignment that will help you to practise concepts from weeks 1 - 3. You code will be assessed via automated tests that will be provided to you. You will also be marked on code quality and completeness.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms  
• Implement programs (from algorithms), showing an understanding of the underlying architecture of the computer  
• Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)  
• Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/98061/unit_guide/print
Assignment 2
Due: 23:45, Friday ending week 12
Weighting: 15%

This will be a programming assignment that will help you to practise concepts from weeks 4 - 9. Your code will be assessed via automated tests that will be provided to you.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms
• Implement programs (from algorithms), showing an understanding of the underlying architecture of the computer
• Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)
• Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

Final Examination
Due: TBA
Weighting: 40%

This will be a two hour written invigilated examination which will cover content from the entire semester.

If you receive special consideration for the final exam, a supplementary exam will be scheduled in the interval between the regular exam period and the start of the next session. By making a special consideration application for the final exam you are declaring yourself available for a resit during the supplementary examination period and will not be eligible for a second special consideration approval based on pre-existing commitments. Please ensure you are familiar with the policy prior to submitting an application. You can check the supplementary exam information page on FSE101 in iLearn (bit.ly/FSESupp) for dates, and approved applicants will receive an individual notification one week prior to the exam with the exact date and time of their supplementary examination.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms
• Implement programs (from algorithms), showing an understanding of the underlying architecture of the computer
• Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)
• Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and
other criteria

**Delivery and Resources**

**CLASSES**

Each week you should attend

- three hours of lectures, and,
- two hour workshop

For details of days, times and rooms consult the [timetables webpage](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/98061/unit_guide/print).

**Note that Lectures and Workshops commence in week 1.**

You should have selected a workshop during enrolment. **You should attend the workshop you are enrolled in.** If you do not have a class, or if you wish to change one, you should see the enrolment operators in the E7B courtyard during the first two weeks of the semester. Thereafter you should go to the Science and Engineering Student Services Centre.

Please note that you are **required** to submit work regularly. You will get the help that you need by attending your workshop. Failure to submit work may result in you failing the unit (see the precise requirements in the "Grading Standards" section) or being excluded from the final examination.

**REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS**

**Textbook**

The first book in the following list, namely **Starting out with Java**, is the recommended textbook. The other books listed are helpful references.

- B. Eckel, *Thinking in Java* (electronic book, 3rd edition available within iLearn is fine and is free but does not cover data structures)
- A. Drozdek, *Data Structures and Algorithms in Java* (Cengage) 2nd edition. ISBN 9780534492526 (this book will also be used in COMP225)
- D. Carlson, *Eclipse Distilled* (Addison-Wesley) 1st edition. ISBN 9780321288158 (extensive coverage of the software development platform eclipse)

**TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED**

**Audio Lecture**
Digital recordings of lectures are available from within iLearn via Active Learning Platform.

**Technology**

- **Eclipse** - download Eclipse IDE for Java Developers
- **Java SE** - download Java SE 9 (8 is also fine) to be compatible with the labs.
- Learning Management System iLearn

**Discussion Boards**

The unit makes use of forums hosted within iLearn. Please post questions there, they are monitored by the unit staff.

**Unit Schedule**

Note that three important themes will pervade the entire unit:

1. **Problem solving.** A crucial skill for all of the weekly topics will be to write appropriate code to meet a given problem specification. This theme relates to the first two learning outcomes for this unit.
2. **Software development.** Use of the JUnit testing framework is an important development practice which will be taught from the beginning, and used throughout the unit. This theme relates to the third learning outcome of this unit.
3. **Comparing different solution methods.** Very often different algorithms are available for the same problem. Another important skill to develop throughout this unit is the ability to compare different algorithms in terms of efficiency and other criteria. This theme relates to the fourth learning outcome of this unit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction, fundamentals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Basics of programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Control Structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Functions - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Arrays - 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Functions and arrays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Case study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Classes and objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Lists and Maps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Time complexity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

Results

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Disruption to Studies

The University recognises that students may experience disruption that adversely affects their academic performance in assessment activities. Support services are provided by the University, and it is the student’s responsibility to access such services as appropriate. For information
Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

Learning Skills
Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

Student Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity Support
Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help
For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

- Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms
- Implement programs (from algorithms), showing an understanding of the underlying architecture of the computer
- Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)
- Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

Assessment tasks

- Practical Exam 1
- Practical Exam 2
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Final Examination

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply enhanced problem solving skills to develop algorithms
- Adhere to standard software engineering practices (in particular documentation using Javadoc, testing using JUnit framework and debugging using Eclipse debugger)
- Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

Assessment tasks

- Practical Exam 1
- Practical Exam 2
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Final Examination
Creative and Innovative
Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment tasks**
- Practical Exam 1
- Practical Exam 2
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Final Examination

Effective Communication
We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**
- Final Examination

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens
As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment tasks**
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative
We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement.
They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**
- Final Examination

**Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking**

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**
- Compare different methods available for the same problem in terms of efficiency and other criteria

**Assessment tasks**
- Practical Exam 2
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Final Examination

**Commitment to Continuous Learning**

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**
- Final Examination

**Changes from Previous Offering**

Requirements for getting CR, D, HD changed. Final exam threshold for obtaining these grades removed.
Grading Standards

Three standards, namely Developing, Functional, and Proficient, summarize as many different levels of achievement. Each standard is precisely defined to help students know what kind of performance is expected to deserve a certain mark. The standards corresponding to the learning outcomes of this unit are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>L.O. #1</th>
<th>Limited ability to solve problems. Limited knowledge of basic data structures.</th>
<th>Ability to write simple algorithms and solve simple problems using OOD. Know basic data structures (queues, stacks, linked lists) and how to manipulate them.</th>
<th>Ability to write complex algorithms and solve complex problems using OOD and recursion. Ability to select the most appropriate data structures to solve a problem.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L.O. #2</td>
<td>Show poor programming skills. Limited ability to write code that compiles or executes properly.</td>
<td>Show basic programming skills. Understand notions of compiler and virtual machine. Know types, how to implement simple conditions, simple loops, simple data structures, simple objects.</td>
<td>Show advanced programming skills. Understand notions of compiler and virtual machine. Know types, how to implement conditions, loops, data structures, objects. Understand inheritance and polymorphism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.O. #3</td>
<td>Unability to follow specifications. Poor coding style. Poor documentation. Submission of incorrect programs showing no sign of testing/debugging skills.</td>
<td>Follow simple specifications. Document code (e.g. pre-post conditions). Test and debug a simple program. Understand the notion of modularity/object file.</td>
<td>Understand the importance of specifications. Neat code/consistent programming style. Clear and insightful comments. Design test cases and debug programs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the end of the semester, you will receive a grade that reflects your achievement in the unit.

- **Fail (F):** does not provide evidence of attainment of all learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; and incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the discipline.
- **Pass (P):** provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the field of study; and communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the discipline. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes.
- **Credit (Cr):** provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; plus communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the discipline.
- **Distinction (D):** provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and
concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience.

- **High Distinction (HD):** provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application.

In this unit, your final grade depends on your performance for each component of the assessment. Indeed, for each task, you receive a mark that captures your standard of performance regarding each learning outcome assessed by this task. Then the different component marks are added up to determine your total mark out of 100. Your grade then depends on this total mark and your overall standard of performance.

Concretely, **you will pass the unit**, if

- your total mark is at least 50 out of 100; and
- you get at least 50% (12.5 out of 25) in the second practical exam.

In order to obtain a higher grade than a Pass, you must fulfil the conditions for a Pass and satisfy the following requirements,

- at least 85% overall for High Distinction
- at least 75% overall for Distinction;
- at least 65% overall or Credit.