



**College of Business Administration**

**Program Overview and Study Plan**

**Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Information Systems**

September 2023

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

To successfully graduate with a bachelor degree in Business Administration in the specialization of BIS from UAQU, students have to complete a variety of different course 'categories'. First, there are 'General Education' requirements which are compulsory for all students at UAQU, irrespective of their College of program specialization. These comprise 10 courses (3 credit hours each), of which 8 are compulsory and two are electives. Second, there are 'Business Requirement' courses which are compulsory for all students at the College of Business Administration, irrespective of the major or program specification they are enrolled in. These are a total of 20 courses, 18 of which are compulsory and two are electives. Finally, students in the BIS program have to complete the so-called 'Major Requirement' which comprises only BIS courses and is therefore only compulsory for students enrolled in the BIS program. These are 9 compulsory courses all BIS students have to take, and 2 more electives from the BIS subject area. Totally, students have completed 41 separate courses across the different categories (123 credit hours) upon graduation.

	Compulsory		Electives		Free Electives		Total	
	Credit Hours	Courses	Credit Hours	Courses	Credit Hours	Courses	Credit Hours	Courses
<b>General Education Requirement (GED)</b>	24	8	6	2	-	-	30	10
<b>Business Requirement</b>	54	18	-	-	6	2	60	20
<b>Major Requirement</b>	27	9	6	2	-	-	33	11
<b>Total Credit Hours</b>	105	35	12	4	6	2	123	41

### General Education Requirements

The General Education Requirement ('GED') courses lay a basic foundation of university studies for all students at UAQU, irrespective of their college or subject area specialization. Purposes is to provide students with basic academic skills and knowledge required for all future careers in a wide field of study. Some of those are directly career-related ('Block 1'), such as English language skills

in a professional context, others ('Block 2') are *Studium Generale* courses that introduce students to the local culture and heritage, or other scientific areas ('Block 3') such as psychology. An important part of the GED curriculum is the 'Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship' course which, early on in the studies, introduces students to an entrepreneurial mindset that helps foster a creative way of thinking to derive innovative solutions to a range of applied problem sets.

It is important to note that, out of 'Block 3', students only have to choose two courses out of the five offered courses. They either take GED 130 or 140, and take any one of the three GED 150, 160, or 180 courses.

Code	Type	Name	Prerequisite
<b>Block 1</b>			
CIT 100	Compulsory	Computer Concepts and Applications	-
ENG 101	Compulsory	Composition and Modern English I	-
ENG 102	Compulsory	Composition and Modern English II	ENG 101
MTH 100	Compulsory	College Algebra	-
IEC 111	Compulsory	Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship	-
<b>Block 2</b>			
GED 100	Compulsory	Islamic Studies	-
GED 110	Compulsory	UAE Society	-
GED 120	Compulsory	Communication Skills in Arabic	-
<b>Block 3</b>			
GED 130	Choose 1 out of 2	Introduction to GIS	-
GED 140		Conceptual Physics	-
GED 150	Choose 1 out of 3	Critical Thinking	-
GED 160		Psychology in Everyday Life	-
GED 180		Human Behavior and Socialization	-

### Business Core Requirements

The 'Business Core' requirements are compulsory for all students enrolled in the College of Business Administration, irrespective of their major or area of specialization. Purpose is for all students to have a solid foundation and background in general business knowledge, across all areas of business administration and economics. Students acquire foundational and advanced quantitative skills ('Block 1'), core knowledge in the main areas of business operations ('Block 2'), basic knowledge in economics ('Block 3'), and advanced computer and communication skills

('Block 4'). Additionally, students have to take an internship as part of their studies, and pass the final applied 'Capstone' course of the program, both of which are designed to equip graduates with 'desk-readiness' upon graduation ('Block 5'). Lastly, students are required to take two so-called 'Free Elective' courses, that is, any course that is being offered outside the College of Business Administration. Purposes of these courses is to allow students to delve into subject areas such as Law or Mass Communications, to broaden their academic horizons or complete a course related to their core studies but delivered from a different angle. Examples could be courses in corporate law, or mass communication courses that closely tie in with certain BIS studies.

Code	Name	Prerequisite
<b>Block 1</b>		
MTH 120	Business Calculus	MTH 100
QM 241	Business Statistics I	MTH 100
QM 341	Business Statistics II	QM 241
BUS 360	Business Analytics	CIT 100, QM 241
BUS 380	Business Research Methods	QM 241
<b>Block 2</b>		
MKT 290	Principles of Marketing	-
MGT 271	Principles of Management	-
OBV 290	Organizational Behavior	MGT 271
LAW 231	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business	-
ACT 191	Principles of Accounting I	-
ACT 292	Principles of Accounting II	ACT 191
FIN 331	Managerial Finance	ACT 292
<b>Block 3</b>		
ECO 251	Principles of Microeconomics	
ECO 252	Principles of Macroeconomics	ECO 251
<b>Block 4</b>		
ENG 202	Business Communication	ENG 102
CIT 200	Introduction to Information Systems	CIT 100
<b>Block 5</b>		
BUS 390	Internship	90 CHs, $\geq 2.0$ GPA
MGT 476	Strategic Management	Senior Standing
<b>Block 6</b>		
Free Choice	Free Elective I	-
Free Choice	Free Elective II	-

### Major (Business Information Systems) Core Courses

The BIS core courses are listed below. All students enrolled in the BIS subject area specialization must complete them. Jointly, they cover all relevant areas of the area, and address all Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), as introduced above.

Code	Name	Prerequisite
BIS 310	Introduction to Software Engineering	CIT 200
BIS 334	Enterprise Resource Planning	CIT 200
BIS 394	Technology Project Management	CIT 200
BIS 402	Enterprise Cloud Computing	BIS 334, BIS 310
BIS 406	Mobile Apps Development for Enterprise	BIS 310
BIS 407	E-Commerce Applications (Web & Mobile)	BIS 310
BIS 410	Business Intelligence I: Machine Learning Applications	BUS 360
BIS 411	Business Intelligence II: Artificial Intelligence	BIS 410
BIS 450	Software Application Design & Implementation (Capstone)	BIS 310, BIS 402

### Major (Business Information Systems) Elective Courses

In addition to the 9 BIS core courses laid out in Part 2.3 above, students enrolled in the BIS program must complete 2 electives in the subject area. At UAQU, students can choose 2 out of the 5 courses offered below. Purposes is to allow students to pick-and-choose a specialized subject area within the realm of BIS, in line with their intellectual interest of desired career path.

Code	Name	Prerequisite
BIS 375	Information Security in E-Business	CIT 200
BIS 420	IT Infrastructure and Networking	CIT 200
BIS 430	IT Product Management	CIT 200
BIS 379	Digital Entrepreneurship	CIT 200
BIS 440	Advanced Tech Stack	BIS 310, BIS 406

## STUDY PLAN

At the College of Business Administration, we guide students through their programs via a fixed semester study plan that all students must follow. In doing so, UAQU's College of Business Administration differs slightly from other Colleges and Universities in the region that allow students a more 'loose' compilation of their courses across the semesters. We believe this is not ideal, and therefore pursue a more 'High School'-type structure to the curriculum.

Purpose of this strategy is threefold. First, following the fixed study plan guarantees that students can graduate 'on time' within the pre-designated 8-semester study period without having to worry about graduation delays due to, for example, erroneous course selections and/or missing credit hours. Second, it ensures that students are exposed to knowledge gradually and in the correct order. We at UAQU like to envision the study plan like building a knowledge 'house' for students: the knowledge basement has to be built first, so that the higher and more advanced knowledge 'floors' have a solid foundation to rest on. To accomplish that, we carefully lay out the correct order of courses for all students, and ensure that certain courses are completed before others – that build on that foundation – are introduced. Third, a positive side effect of this fixed study plan is the communal and social learning environment that it creates amongst students, as students that start their studies in the same intake or 'cohort' will go through their study plan jointly, and can therefore support each other better in their studies. Part of that is also that students in any given course have a rather homogenous skill set, which lets lecturers tailor the contents to whatever foundational knowledge all course participants have acquired prior to taking the course. This avoids going 'too slow' for students with more advanced knowledge, or going 'too fast' for students with less advanced knowledge.

The study plan we propose for our students is shown in the table below.

### First Year

The first year lays the foundation of knowledge, with students taking a variety of General Education courses, as well as the first introductory courses to Business Administration. The knowledge of all those early courses is paramount for the deeper understanding of later courses, and must therefore be established early. Goal is for students to have completed the ten courses as indicated in the study plan table below. Should students wish to cut back on the 5/5 course load in the first year, we only allow for the General Education classes GED 100 or GED 130/140 to

be cut. Students that wish to increase the course load can take LAW 231 from the second year already in the first year. It is important to note that all students must complete the following courses to be admitted into Year 2: MGT 271, (ii) ECO 251, (iii) ACT 191, (iv) CIT 100, (v) IEC 111, (vi) MTH 100, (vii) ENG 101.

## **Second Year**

The second year places a heavier emphasis on the Business Core courses, to deepen students knowledge in this area. Students also have to complete the GED requirements and take the first of the two free electives of their choice. Particularly the completion of the GED courses is important, to ensure that students have sufficient capacity to predominantly focus their attention on the major courses in Years 3 and 4. Should students have opted not to take the designated-for-drop GED courses from the study plan in Year 1 (GED 100, GED 130/140), these must be completed by the end of Year 2. Furthermore, to be able to be admitted into Year 3, students must complete the following courses at the end of year 2: (i) GED 150/160/180, (ii) GED 130/140, (iii) QM 241, (iv) ENG 102, (v) ACT 292, (vi) CIT 200, (v) MKT 290. These courses are of particular importance as they are requirements for subsequent courses taken in Years 3 and 4. Not completing them by the end of Year 2 will lead to disruptions in the study plan, and prevent students from graduation within 8 semesters 'on time'.

## **Third Year**

In the third year, students taken the most advanced Business Core courses, and begin taking the first courses from their respective majors. In BIS, this is Introduction to Software Engineering (BIS 310), Enterprise Resource Planning (BIS 334), and Technology Project Management (BIS 394). These are foundational courses students need to be exposed to early in their studies, as a basis for further and more technical/detailed courses later. Also, we let students choose their first BIS elective, to indulge in whatever sub-area within BIS they are most interested in. This is particularly important as students take the Internship early in the fourth year (as explained below), and should therefore be able to 'specialize' in Semester 6 as the basis for their desired field/industry/area of Internship. At the end of the third year, students must have completed BIS 334 and BIS 310 in order to be admitted to the fourth year.

## **Fourth Year**

The fourth year is students' last year of study. All remaining core courses in their subject area are taken, along with the Capstone business course, and all remaining electives. While students are only required to take two electives in their subject area, we plan on including four electives in their study plan. This ensures that students can either gain insights into more sub-areas in the field of BIS, or improve their GPA by picking-and-choosing their best two of the four (or even five, depending on choice) electives they take. It is important to note that the eighth semester in particular features all the most advanced courses that introduce students to the latest in BIS such as courses on Artificial Intelligence (BIS 411), or cutting-edge software application design or mobile app development (BIS 450, BIS 406 & 407). It is therefore required that students complete all 'basic' and more foundational courses prior to the eighth semester, particularly BIS 410 and BIS 402.



## Fixed Semester Study Plan

1 <sup>st</sup> Year	1 <sup>st</sup> Semester		1	BBA	Core	ACT 191	Principles of Accounting I	-
			2	GED		CIT 100	Computer Concepts and Applications	-
			3	GED		ENG 101	Composition and Modern English I	-
			4	GED		MTH 100	College Algebra	-
			5	GED		GED 100	Islamic Studies <sup>1</sup>	-
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester		1	BBA	Core	ECO 251	Principles of Microeconomics	-
			2	BBA	Core	MGT 271	Principles of Management	-
			3	GED		IEC 111	Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship	-
			4	GED		GED 120	Communication Skills in Arabic	-
			5	GED		GED 130/140	1 <sup>st</sup> GED Elective <sup>1</sup>	-

Courses that must be taken before year 2: (i) MGT 271, (ii) ECO 251, (iii) ACT 191, (iv) CIT 100, (v) IEC 111, (vi) MTH 100, (vii) ENG 101

2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester		1	BBA	Core	MKT 290	Principles of Marketing	MGT 271
			2	BBA	Core	ACT 292	Principles of Accounting II	ACT 191
			3	BBA	Core	CIT 200	Introduction to Information Systems	CIT 100
			4	BBA	Core	MTH 120	Business Calculus	MTH 100
			5	BBA	Core		Free Elective (1 out of 2)	-
			6	GED		ENG 102	Composition and Modern English II	ENG 101
	4 <sup>th</sup> Semester		1	BBA	Core	LAW 231	Legal and Ethical Environment of Business <sup>2</sup>	-
			2	BBA	Core	ECO 252	Principles of Macroeconomics	ECO 251
			3	BBA	Core	QM 241	Business Statistics I	MTH 100
			4	GED		GED 110	UAE Society	-
		5	GED		GED 150/160/180	2 <sup>nd</sup> GED Elective	-	

Courses that MUST be taken before year 3: (i) GED 150/160/180, (ii) GED 130/140, (iii) QM 241, (iv) ENG 102, (v) ACT 292, (vi) CIT 200

<sup>1</sup> Only possible drop to reduce course load.

<sup>2</sup> Can be taken in first year to increase course.

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>	1	BBA	Core	FIN 331	Managerial Finance	ACT 292
		2	BBA	Core	ENG 202	Business Communication	ENG 102
		3	BBA	Core	QM 341	Business Statistics II	QM 241
		4	BBA	Core	OBV 290	Organizational Behavior	MGT 271
		5	BBA	Core		Free Elective (2 out of 2)	
	<b>6<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>	1	BBA	Core	BUS 360	Business Analytics	CIT 100, QM 241
		2	BIS	Core	BIS 310	Introduction to Software Engineering	CIT 200
		3	BIS	Core	BIS 334	Enterprise Resource Planning	CIT 200
		4	BIS	Core	BIS 394	Technology Project Management	CIT 200
		5	BIS	Elective		BIS Elective I	CIT 200

Courses that MUST be taken before year 4: (i) BIS 334, (ii) BIS 310

<b>4<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>	1	BBA	Core	BUS 380	Business Research Methods	QM 241	
		2	BBA	Core	BUS 390	Internship	90 CHs, ≥2.0 GPA	
		3	BIS	Core	BIS 402	Enterprise Cloud Computing	BIS 334, BIS 310	
		4	BIS	Core	BIS 410	Business Intelligence I: Machine Learning Appl.	BUS 360	
		5	BIS	Elective		BIS Elective II	CIT 200	
		6	BIS	Elective		BIS Elective III	CIT 200	
	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Semester</b>	Courses that MUST be taken before 8th semester: (i) BUS 410, (ii) BIS 402						
		1	BBA	Core	MKT 476	Strategic Management (Capstone)	Senior Standing	
		2	BIS	Core	BIS 450	Software Application Design & Implementation	BIS 310, BIS 402	
		3	BIS	Core	BIS 406	Mobile Apps Development for Enterprise	BIS 310	
4		BIS	Core	BIS 411	Business Intelligence II: Artificial Intelligence	BIS 410		
5		BIS	Core	BIS 407	E-Commerce Applications (Web & Mobile)	BIS 310		
6	BIS	Elective		BIS Elective IV	CIT 200			