Programme Specification

HND in Computing & Systems Development

Date of Publication to Students: September 2015

> **NOTE:** This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detail on the specific learning outcomes, indicative content and the teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Specifications and in the Course Guide.
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> The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the College and may be checked within independent review processes undertaken by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Awarding Body:	Pearson/Edexcel
Teaching Institution:	Birmingham Metropolitan College
Interim Awards:	**Final Award:** HND in Computing and Systems Development
	Fall back Award: HNC in Computing and Systems Development
Programme Title:	HND in Computing and Systems Development
Main fields of Study:	Research and Management Skills required for the Public Services
Modes of Study:	Full Time
Language of Study:	English
UCAS Code:	**B30/21II (Sutton Coldfield College)** **B30/004G (Stourbridge College)**
JACS Code:	

Professional Status of the programme (if applicable):
N/A

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

The course aims, as set out in the programme specifications, are consistent with the QAA benchmarking statements, FHEQ level descriptors, the Degree Awarding Body descriptors and the College mission statement.

Programme philosophy and aims

This qualification provides a thorough grounding in the key concepts and practical skills required in the sector. One potential progression pathway is on to the second or third year of a degree or honours programme, depending on the match of the course units to the degree programme in question. Students can also progress to the professional qualifications offered by the British Computer Society (BCS).

The aims of the programme are to:

- Equip learners with knowledge, understanding and skills for success in employment in the computing industry
- Enable progression to an undergraduate degree or further professional qualification in computing or related area
- Provide opportunities for specialist study relevant to individual vocations and context
- Support individuals employed or entering employment in the computing industry
- Develop the learner's ability in the computing industry through effective use and combination of the knowledge and skills gained in different parts of the programme
- Enable the learner to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attributes essential for successful performance in working life and thereby enabling learners to make an immediate contribution to employment
- Provide flexibility, knowledge, skills and motivation as a basis for future studies and career development in computing and skills development

Intended learning outcomes and the means by which they are achieved and demonstrated:

Learning Outcomes

1.   Students are expected to complete 16 units over a 2 year period.

2.

3.   Be able to produce a comprehensive Personal, Professional Plan, that demonstrates clear professional development throughout the course.

4.

5.

Knowledge and Understanding

Level 4 – Students initially obtain the key knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to work in the computing sector, but also offer particular specialist emphasis through the choice of specialist units. The students look at the key functions of databases, the fundamentals of programming and how IT professionals conduct work within the sector.

Level 5 – students develop independence in devising their own projects and selecting specialist areas of study in negotiation with staff. An analytical and critical approach is developed through group critiques, individual tutorials and project evaluation.

Students cover more specialised skills of programming and design at level 5, bringing them up to date with current industry standard software and practices. The units taken often map to CISCO, Microsoft and BCS related vendor qualifications aiding them to achieve these qualifications in the future if they choose to do so.

Learning teaching, and assessment methods used

Methods of teaching range from formal lectures to more interactive sessions. Methods can be summarised as tutorials, seminars, group discussions, workshops, lectures, live projects and/or placements, educational visits and general tutorial

Programme structure and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards

Programme Modules, Level and Credit Values

Sutton Coldfield College

Year 1			
Semester	**Module**	**Level**	**Credits**
1	Unit 01: Business skills for e-commerce	4	15
	Unit 02: Computer systems	4	15
	Unit 03: Employability and professional development	4	15
	Unit 05: Emerging technologies	4	15
2	Unit 17: Database design concepts	4	15
	Unit 18: Procedural programming	4	15
	Unit 19: Object oriented programming	4	15
	Unit 24: Networking technologies	4	15
Total credits			120
Year 2			
1	Unit 4: Project design, implementation and evaluation	5	20
	Unit 30: Information systems in organisations	5	15
	Unit 33: Data analysis and design	5	15
	Unit 35: Web applications development	5	15
2	Unit 44: Local area networking technologies	5	15
	Unit 45: Wide area networking technologies	5	15
	Unit 46: Network security	5	15
	Unit 47: IT virtualisation	5	15
Total credits			125

Total Credit required for Award = 245

Stourbridge College

Year 1			
Semester	**Module**	**Level**	**Credits**
1	Unit 01: Business skills for e-commerce	4	15
	Unit 02: Computer systems	4	15
	Unit 03: Employability and professional development	4	15
	Unit 18: Procedural programming	4	15
2	Unit 13: Multimedia and authoring	4	15
	Unit 14: Website design	4	15
	Unit 17: Database design concepts	4	15
	Unit 26: Design a small or home office (SOHO) network	4	15
Total credits			120

Year 2				
1	Unit 33: Data analysis and design	5	15
	Unit 35: Web applications development	5	15
	Unit 37: Digital image creation and development	5	15
	Unit 36: Internet server management	5	15
2	Unit 4: Project design, implementation and evaluation	5	20
	Unit 34: Data structures and algorithms	5	15
	Unit 38: 3D computer modelling and animation	5	15
	Unit 39: Computer games design and development	5	15
	Total credits		125

Total Credit required for Award = 245

Support for Learning including Personal Development Planning (PDP)

Students are encouraged to identify and, with guidance, to reflect on their own learning needs and are offered the following support as appropriate to meet those needs:

• An induction programme providing dissemination of essential information.
• A Learning and Resource Centre providing access to a variety of learning resources, with support from staff
• A Student Handbook containing important information including tutors, staff responsibilities, contacts and regulations and requirements of the course.
• Access to the College IT facilities
• Access to the College Student Services and Careers Advisor
• Access to a Student Counsellor
• Regular group tutorial sessions
• One-to-one tutorials arranged on request
• Consultation with tutor by email, telephone, VLE and other electronic sources

Students will produce their own Personal Development Plans and have periodic reviews with their Personal Tutor.

Criteria for admission

Candidates must satisfy the general admissions requirements of the programme, which are as follows:

• A BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in an appropriate area   (120 UCAS points)
• A GCE A Level profile which demonstrates strong performance in a relevant subject or an adequate performance in more than one GCE subject. This profile is likely to be supported by GCSE grades at level A-C (120 UCAS points)
• Other related Level 3 qualifications (120 UCAS points)
• An Access to Higher Education Certificate awarded by an approved further education institution
• Related work experience

More mature learners may present a more varied profile of achievement that is likely to include extensive work experience and/or achievement of a range of professional qualifications in their work sector.

Methods for evaluation and enhancement of quality and standards including listening and responding to views of students

The College quality process applied to this programme includes:

The quality of the programme will be closely monitored by all staff involved in its delivery. The Course Director/ Departmental Manager is the local Manager who will oversee the delivery of the programme, the Head of Faculty for Higher Education and the College Director of Quality, monitor the overall effectiveness and quality through a robust College-wide quality control process. The programme will also adhere to the College's regulations and processes.

The College quality process applied to this programme includes:

- Regular teaching observations and reviews
- Staff skills updating as required
- Regular delivery team meetings
- Standardisation meetings and thorough internal verification process
- Programme management meetings involving student representatives and course delivery team
- Seeking of student views during group tutorials, one to one tutorials and by formal College survey completion and national surveys.
- Termly Review Boards to review course performance on a regular basis.
- Production of programme Annual Monitoring Reports which detail the   performance   of the students and programme.
- End of module/programme Examination Boards, attended by an External Examiner.
- A robust system for dealing with complaints or issues, should they arise.

Students will have regular opportunities to present their views to subject tutors during taught sessions, during tutorials and during one-to-one tutorials (by appointment). They will also be able to express their views to the Course Director (by arranged appointment) and also express their views via the student Course Representative who will convey views to the course team, at termly Programme Management Meetings.

The Programme Management Meetings are attended by the course team, student representatives and where possible an employer. Minutes of the meeting are recorded and an action log produced.

Students are expected to complete regular quality surveys, both internal and external Higher Education Surveys.