

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Discussion/Direction	<input type="checkbox"/>
Information	<input type="checkbox"/>

DATE: 26 March 2024

FROM: Graduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Master of Information Technology Security

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Section III, part c) of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility to “examine proposals for new graduate degree and diploma programs, major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to Academic Council”.

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Master of Information Technology Security program.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

The Faculty is proposing to:

- Allow for a 3-year Bachelor’s Degree as an admission requirement for candidates from countries where a 3 year Bachelor is customary. This change has been applied across all of the Faculty’s graduate level programs.
- Create a new field for the MITS program – Cybersecurity Governance (hereafter referred to as MITS-GOV). The proposed field will be an online, block-oriented program that allows current IT Security professionals the opportunity to study and advance their skills with a set of professionally curated and easily accessible contents.

The current program is aimed squarely at practitioners but does not on the whole address the problem of how people manage the process. Applicants are required to have programming/math experience and education, but this is not required for managers of practitioners in the field, where what is needed are management and oversight skills, as well as the ability to understand the concepts at a higher and sometimes less technical level. The Faculty sees a need for these people, and regularly observe applicants to MITS who are in the field as managers and working toward bettering their skills, but not having the requirements of coding/math. These people would

benefit from the training and experience provided in the new field and represent an existing market for this field.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

No new resources required. These changes will use existing faculty competency, lab space, and there is no need for additional administrative support.

TRANSITION PLAN:

N/A

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ FBIT Graduate Education Committee: 15 November 2023
- ✓ Faculty Council: 21 November 2023
- ✓ Graduate Studies Committee (for recommendation): 27 February 2024
- Academic Council (for approval): 26 March 2024

Adjustment of Admissions requirements: Consultation with the Dean and SGPS.

Creation of new field: Consultation with students occurred as part of the recent program review, with this new field in mind. Additionally, the MITS area has been consulted and provided feedback and experience. There has also been consultation on the creation of this field with members of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Resilient Systems during discussions of the new proposed PhD program in Cybersecurity currently in development.

NEXT STEPS:

Pending the approval of Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2024-2025 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- [Major Program Modification proposal](#)
- New course proposals: [INFR 5010G](#), [INFR 6020G](#), [INFR 6030G](#), [INFR 6040G](#), [INFR 6050G](#), [INFR 6110G](#), [INFR 6120G](#), [INFR 6130G](#), [INFR 6140G](#)