

ELC207

Communications Engineering

School: School of Science, Technology and Engineering

2025 | Semester 2

UniSC Moreton Bay

**BLENDED
LEARNING**

Most of your course is on campus but you may be able to do some components of this course online.

Please go to usc.edu.au for up to date information on the teaching sessions and campuses where this course is usually offered.

1. What is this course about?

1.1. Description

In this course you will learn, understand and apply the theories and practices of data communication, and the practical and hardware requirements for the transmission of data between electronic devices. You will learn to apply knowledge and skills transmission protocols, behaviour of hardware devices and error checking of data communication.

1.2. How will this course be delivered?

ACTIVITY	HOURS	BEGINNING WEEK	FREQUENCY
BLENDED LEARNING			
Learning materials – Asynchronous weekly learning material	1hr	Week 1	13 times
Seminar – On campus	1hr	Week 1	3 times
Tutorial/Workshop 1 – On campus	2hrs	Week 1	10 times
Laboratory 1 – On campus	2hrs	Week 2	5 times

1.3. Course Topics

Topics may include:

- Introduction to Communication Systems
- Modulation Techniques
- Sampling and Nyquist Theory
- Noise in Communication Systems
- Signal Transmission
- Pulse Code Modulation
- Information Theory
- Entropy and Channel Capacity
- Source Coding Techniques
- Error Detection and Correction
- Linear Block Codes

2. What level is this course?

200 Level (Developing)

Building on and expanding the scope of introductory knowledge and skills, developing breadth or depth and applying knowledge and skills in a new context. May require pre-requisites where discipline specific introductory knowledge or skills is necessary. Normally, undertaken in the second or third full-time year of an undergraduate programs.

3. What is the unit value of this course?

12 units

4. How does this course contribute to my learning?

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES	GRADUATE QUALITIES MAPPING	PROFESSIONAL STANDARD MAPPING *
On successful completion of this course, you should be able to...	Completing these tasks successfully will contribute to you becoming...	Competencies from multiple Professional Bodies (see below) *
1 Select and justify appropriate methods of data compression, encryption and error checking for local and wide-area networks	Knowledgeable	1, 1.1.a, 1.2.a, 1.1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.2
2 Evaluate and critique common communication systems in terms of their properties, advantages and disadvantages	Creative and critical thinker	2, 2, 2.1.a, 2.1.a, 2.1, 2.1
3 Design a communication system according to a given specification by using design calculations	Empowered	2.3.a, 2.3.a, 2.3.c, 2.3.c, 2.3, 2.3
4 Demonstrate information literacy skills to find, analyse and evaluate appropriate information and interpret data communications standards documents	Engaged	3.2.a, 3.2.a, 3.4.a, 3.4.a, 3.4.b, 3.4.b, 3.2, 3.2, 3.4, 3.4

* Competencies by Professional Body

CODE	COMPETENCY
ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA STAGE 1 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER COMPETENCY STANDARDS	
1	Elements of competency: Knowledge and Skill Base
1.1.a	Knowledge and Skill Base - Comprehensive, theory based understanding of the underpinning natural and physical sciences and the engineering fundamentals applicable to the engineering discipline: Engages with the engineering discipline at a phenomenological level, applying sciences and engineering fundamentals to systematic investigation, interpretation, analysis and innovative solution of complex problems and broader aspects of engineering practice.
1.2.a	Knowledge and Skill Base - Conceptual understanding of the mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics, and computer and information sciences which underpin the engineering discipline: Develops and fluently applies relevant investigation analysis, interpretation, assessment, characterisation, prediction, evaluation, modelling, decision making, measurement, evaluation, knowledge management and communication tools and techniques pertinent to the engineering discipline.
1.1	Knowledge and Skill Base: Comprehensive, theory based understanding of the underpinning natural and physical sciences and the engineering fundamentals applicable to the engineering discipline.
1.2	Knowledge and Skill Base: Conceptual understanding of the mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics, and computer and information sciences which underpin the engineering discipline.
2	Elements of competency: Engineering Application Ability
2.1.a	Engineering Application Ability - Application of established engineering methods to complex engineering problem solving: Identifies, discerns and characterises salient issues, determines and analyses causes and effects, justifies and applies appropriate simplifying assumptions, predicts performance and behaviour, synthesises solution strategies and develops substantiated conclusions.

CODE	COMPETENCY
2.3.a	Engineering Application Ability - Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes: Proficiently applies technical knowledge and open ended problem solving skills as well as appropriate tools and resources to design components, elements, systems, plant, facilities and/or processes to satisfy user requirements.
2.3.c	Engineering Application Ability - Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes: Executes and leads a whole systems design cycle approach.
2.1	Engineering Application Ability: Application of established engineering methods to complex engineering problem solving.
2.3	Engineering Application Ability: Application of systematic engineering synthesis and design processes.
3.2.a	Professional and Personal Attributes - Effective oral and written communication in professional and lay domains: Is proficient in listening, speaking, reading and writing English.
3.4.a	Professional and Personal Attributes - Professional use and management of information: Is proficient in locating and utilising information - including accessing, systematically searching, analysing, evaluating and referencing relevant published works and data; is proficient in the use of indexes, bibliographic databases and other search facilities.
3.4.b	Professional and Personal Attributes - Professional use and management of information: Critically assesses the accuracy, reliability and authenticity of information.
3.2	Professional and Personal Attributes: Effective oral and written communication in professional and lay domains.
3.4	Professional and Personal Attributes: Professional use and management of information.
ENGINEERS AUSTRALIA STAGE 1 ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIST COMPETENCY STANDARDS	
1.1	Knowledge and Skill Base: Systematic, theory based understanding of the underpinning natural and physical sciences and the engineering fundamentals applicable to the technology domain.
1.2	Knowledge and Skill Base: Conceptual understanding of the, mathematics, numerical analysis, statistics, and computer and information sciences which underpin the technology domain.
2	Elements of competency: Engineering Application Ability
2.1.a	Engineering Application Ability - Application of established engineering methods to broadly-defined problem solving within the technology domain: Identifies, discerns and characterises salient issues, determines and analyses causes and effects, justifies and applies appropriate simplifying assumptions, predicts performance and behaviour, synthesises solution strategies and develops substantiated conclusions.
2.3.a	Engineering Application Ability - Application of systematic synthesis and design processes within the technology domain: Proficiently applies technological knowledge and problem solving skills as well as established tools and procedures to design components, system elements, plant, facilities and/or processes to meet technical specifications and performance criteria.
2.3.c	Engineering Application Ability - Application of systematic synthesis and design processes within the technology domain: Engages with a whole systems design cycle.
2.1	Engineering Application Ability: Application of established engineering methods to broadly-defined problem solving within the technology domain.
2.3	Engineering Application Ability: Application of systematic synthesis and design processes within the technology domain.
3.2.a	Professional and Personal Attributes - Effective oral and written communication in professional and lay domains: Is proficient in listening, speaking, reading and writing English.
3.4.a	Professional and Personal Attributes - Professional use and management of information: Is proficient in locating and utilising information including accessing, systematically searching, analysing, evaluating and referencing relevant published materials and data.
3.4.b	Professional and Personal Attributes - Professional use and management of information: Critically assesses the accuracy, reliability and authenticity of information.
3.2	Professional and Personal Attributes: Effective oral and written communication in professional and lay domains.
3.4	Professional and Personal Attributes: Professional use and management of information.

5. Am I eligible to enrol in this course?

Refer to the [UniSC Glossary of terms](#) for definitions of “pre-requisites, co-requisites and anti-requisites”.

5.1. Pre-requisites

ENG103 or ENG106

5.2. Co-requisites

Not applicable

5.3. Anti-requisites

ELC301

5.4. Specific assumed prior knowledge and skills (where applicable)

Not applicable

6. How am I going to be assessed?

6.1. Grading Scale

Standard Grading (GRD)

High Distinction (HD), Distinction (DN), Credit (CR), Pass (PS), Fail (FL).

6.2. Details of early feedback on progress

Early feedback will be provided through completion of weekly activities in workshops. Furthermore, feedback on each assessment will be provided which will be used to help with the following assessment.

6.3. Assessment tasks

DELIVERY MODE	TASK NO.	ASSESSMENT PRODUCT	INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP	WEIGHTING %	WHAT IS THE DURATION / LENGTH?	WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT?	WHERE SHOULD I SUBMIT IT?
All	1	Artefact - Technical and Scientific, and Written Piece	Individual	20%	1500 words equivalent	Week 7	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	2	Portfolio	Group	40%	2000 words equivalent	Week 11	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check
All	3	Examination - Centrally Scheduled	Individual	40%	2 hours	Exam Period	Online Assignment Submission with plagiarism check

All - Assessment Task 1: Technical engineering artefact

GOAL:	To develop your understanding of core theory and enable you to demonstrate your knowledge and skills in developing communication systems and circuits		
PRODUCT:	Artefact - Technical and Scientific, and Written Piece		
FORMAT:	For this task you will produce a consolidated written artefact adhering to a specified structure that is approximately 1500 words equivalent in length including figures, text, and diagrams		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Demonstration of efficient and effective techniques and skills to develop communication systems and circuits programs or logic circuits	3
	2	Selection and justification of appropriate methods of data compression, encryption and error checking for local and wide-area networks.	1 4
	3	Demonstration of information literacy skills to find, analyse and evaluate appropriate information and interpret data communications standards documents.	4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 2: Report-based Workshop Portfolio

GOAL:	To develop your ability to design, build and create communication systems for problem solving and document your conclusions in a portfolio of engineering reports.		
PRODUCT:	Portfolio		
FORMAT:	You'll work as a group to produce a portfolio of communication system designs and related information in the form of a document of 2000 words equivalent including figures, text, and diagrams.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Selection of appropriate constructs to design communication systems or circuits	1 2 4
	2	Demonstration of information literacy skills to find, analyse and evaluate appropriate information and interpret data communications standards documents	2 4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Collaboration, Problem solving, Organisation, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

All - Assessment Task 3: Final Examination

GOAL:	The final exam will develop your ability to independently apply your skills and knowledge to solve familiar problem based questions with confidence within a set time limit and without access to additional resources.		
PRODUCT:	Examination - Centrally Scheduled		
FORMAT:	Centrally scheduled 2-hour closed book examination.		
CRITERIA:	No.		Learning Outcome assessed
	1	Selection of appropriate mathematical theory and programming constructs	1 2
	2	Correct application of theory and knowledge to solve engineering problems	1 4
	3	Communication of solutions using appropriate engineering terminology, symbols and diagrams	3 4
GENERIC SKILLS:	Communication, Problem solving, Applying technologies, Information literacy		

7. Directed study hours

A 12-unit course will have total of 150 learning hours which will include directed study hours (including online if required), self-directed learning and completion of assessable tasks. Student workload is calculated at 12.5 learning hours per one unit.

8. What resources do I need to undertake this course?

Please note: Course information, including specific information of recommended readings, learning activities, resources, weekly readings, etc. are available on the course Canvas site– Please log in as soon as possible.

8.1. Prescribed text(s) or course reader

There are no required/recommended resources for this course.

8.2. Specific requirements

Not applicable

9. How are risks managed in this course?

Health and safety risks for this course have been assessed as low. It is your responsibility to review course material, search online, discuss with lecturers and peers and understand the health and safety risks associated with your specific course of study and to familiarise yourself with the University's general health and safety principles by reviewing the [online induction training for students](#), and following the instructions of the University staff.

10. What administrative information is relevant to this course?

10.1. Assessment: Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is the ethical standard of university participation. It ensures that students graduate as a result of proving they are competent in their discipline. This is integral in maintaining the value of academic qualifications. Each industry has expectations and standards of the skills and knowledge within that discipline and these are reflected in assessment.

Academic integrity means that you do not engage in any activity that is considered to be academic fraud; including plagiarism, collusion or outsourcing any part of any assessment item to any other person. You are expected to be honest and ethical by completing all work yourself and indicating in your work which ideas and information were developed by you and which were taken from others. You cannot provide your assessment work to others. You are also expected to provide evidence of wide and critical reading, usually by using appropriate academic references.

In order to minimise incidents of academic fraud, this course may require that some of its assessment tasks, when submitted to Canvas, are electronically checked through Turnitin. This software allows for text comparisons to be made between your submitted assessment item and all other work to which Turnitin has access.

10.2. Assessment: Additional Requirements

Eligibility for Supplementary Assessment

Your eligibility for supplementary assessment in a course is dependent of the following conditions applying:

- (a) The final mark is in the percentage range 47% to 49.4%; and
- (b) The course is graded using the Standard Grading scale

10.3. Assessment: Submission penalties

Late submissions may be penalised up to and including the following maximum percentage of the assessment task's identified value, with weekdays and weekends included in the calculation of days late:

- (a) One day: deduct 5%;
- (b) Two days: deduct 10%;
- (c) Three days: deduct 20%;
- (d) Four days: deduct 40%;
- (e) Five days: deduct 60%;
- (f) Six days: deduct 80%;
- (g) Seven days: A result of zero is awarded for the assessment task.

The following penalties will apply for a late submission for an online examination:

Less than 15 minutes: No penalty

From 15 minutes to 30 minutes: 20% penalty

More than 30 minutes: 100% penalty

10.4. SafeUniSC

UniSC is committed to a culture of respect and providing a safe and supportive environment for all members of our community. For immediate assistance on campus contact SafeUniSC by phone: [07 5430 1168](tel:0754301168) or using the [SafeZone](#) app. For general enquires contact the SafeUniSC team by phone [07 5456 3864](tel:0754563864) or email safe@usc.edu.au.

The SafeUniSC Specialist Service is a Student Wellbeing service that provides free and confidential support to students who may have experienced or observed behaviour that could cause fear, offence or trauma. To contact the service call [07 5430 1226](tel:0754301226) or email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au.

10.5. Study help

For help with course-specific advice, for example what information to include in your assessment, you should first contact your tutor, then your course coordinator, if needed.

If you require additional assistance, the Learning Advisers are trained professionals who are ready to help you develop a wide range of academic skills. Visit the [Learning Advisers](#) web page for more information, or contact Student Central for further assistance: +61 7 5430 2890 or studentcentral@usc.edu.au.

10.6. Wellbeing Services

Student Wellbeing provide free and confidential counselling on a wide range of personal, academic, social and psychological matters, to foster positive mental health and wellbeing for your academic success.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email studentwellbeing@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 1226.

10.7. AccessAbility Services

Ability Advisers ensure equal access to all aspects of university life. If your studies are affected by a disability, learning disorder mental health issue, injury or illness, or you are a primary carer for someone with a disability or who is considered frail and aged, [AccessAbility Services](#) can provide access to appropriate reasonable adjustments and practical advice about the support and facilities available to you throughout the University.

To book a confidential appointment go to [Student Hub](#), email AccessAbility@usc.edu.au or call 07 5430 2890.

10.8. Links to relevant University policy and procedures

For more information on Academic Learning & Teaching categories including:

- Assessment: Courses and Coursework Programs
- Review of Assessment and Final Grades
- Supplementary Assessment
- Central Examinations
- Deferred Examinations
- Student Conduct
- Students with a Disability

For more information, visit <https://www.usc.edu.au/explore/policies-and-procedures#academic-learning-and-teaching>

10.9. Student Charter

UniSC is committed to excellence in teaching, research and engagement in an environment that is inclusive, inspiring, safe and respectful. The [Student Charter](#) sets out what students can expect from the University, and what in turn is expected of students, to achieve these outcomes.

10.10. General Enquiries

In person:

- **UniSC Sunshine Coast** - Student Central, Ground Floor, Building C, 90 Sippy Downs Drive, Sippy Downs
- **UniSC Moreton Bay** - Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foundation Building, Gympie Road, Petrie
- **UniSC SouthBank** - Student Central, Building A4 (SW1), 52 Merivale Street, South Brisbane
- **UniSC Gympie** - Student Central, 71 Cartwright Road, Gympie
- **UniSC Fraser Coast** - Student Central, Student Central, Building A, 161 Old Maryborough Rd, Hervey Bay
- **UniSC Caboolture** - Student Central, Level 1 Building J, Cnr Manley and Tallon Street, Caboolture

Tel: +61 7 5430 2890

Email: studentcentral@usc.edu.au