

University of North Texas
G. Brint Ryan College of Business
Information Technology and Decision Sciences
BUSI 3100 - Professional Development II-Critical Thinking and Decision Making in Business
This is an 8-week course (8/17/2026 – 10/9/2026)

Course Information

BUSI 3100 – Professional Development II-Critical Thinking and Decision Making in Business

Class Meeting: Course is offered remotely. This is an 8-week course.

Date/Time of meetings: **every Wednesday, 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. on Zoom. Your Zoom link will be published in your Canvas course in an announcement titled “Zoom Meetings”.**

Also, you can find the fixed Zoom link for our weekly meetings below:

<https://unt.zoom.us/j/81853900340?pwd=tDrO3NC0bu00F08LFO6I79LoZzgcen.1>

Meeting ID: 818 5390 0340

Passcode: 110617

Final exam Important Note:

The final exam takes place in person during weeks 7 and 8. Students are required to come to the Frisco campus, Frisco Landing Room 480 (FRLD 480), at their designated class time (Wednesday at 1 p.m.) during week 7 and/or week 8 to take the Excel Associate (Excel 365) Certification Exam.

Instructor Contact

Instructor: Neda Khosh Kheslat

Office location: on Zoom

Office hours: With previous appointments on Mondays, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. through the Zoom link below:

<https://unt.zoom.us/j/82337326103?pwd=Q1a9QkqYpHgZUQarJBPLxI82COj9zq.1>

Meeting ID: 823 3732 6103

Passcode: 046460

Email: Use the Inbox in Canvas (MUST include BUSI 3100 and class section in the Subject Line) / neda.khoshkheslat@unt.edu

Normally, I will reply to an email within 24 to 48 hours. If I'm unable to respond within that time frame, I will inform the class in advance.

Communication Expectations

The most convenient way to communicate with the instructor is via the Canvas Inbox. Download the mobile app for your convenience.

Discussion Board Communication

Please post general course or assignment questions to the General Course Questions & Answers Discussion Topic. For your convenience, you may read online communication tips at: <https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips> Students are encouraged to respond to their fellow classmates' questions. I will read all discussion postings and add comments/suggestions/questions as necessary to keep the discussion on topic. Specific topic instructions on discussions are provided in the forums when needed.

Canvas Notifications

Receive instant notifications about course events, such as submissions, discussion messages, and announcements, through Canvas. Assignments and all deliverables will be graded and returned soon after the due date. Please note that there is no late work accepted for this class.

Course Philosophy

A variety of instructional techniques are used to achieve the pedagogical objectives of this course. The modules are designed to introduce the philosophies and methodologies in computers in our world. Problems and methodologies are illustrated in class with an emphasis on mixed learning techniques. Cengage MindTap provides students with simulation training for Microsoft Excel study tools and a mobile app.

Course Description

Professional Development II-Critical Thinking and Decision Making in Business. The second of three required 1-hour professional development courses for the BBA programs. Focuses on crucial desired skills in managers and business leaders. Divided into modules: defining the problem, developing alternative solutions, decision making, and presenting your decision. Relies on experiential learning, lectures and workshops to expose students to the knowledge and skills required for critical thinking and decision making in business.

Prerequisite(s): Restricted to College of Business majors only. Must have completed all pre-business prerequisites. Corequisite(s): DSCI 3710 or DSCI 3870 depending on major requirement.

This course examines the fundamental concepts of computing in various business disciplines. The course also provides an introduction to programming and to software programs you will use in later courses and in business.

The course is divided into five main concepts:

1. *Critical thinking - Identify or define the problem* - More often than not, managers face situations that are ill-defined, unstructured, and ambiguous. In fact, some may face situations that some define as the problem, but

in fact may be just symptoms. This stage involves looking at the symptoms, assumptions, and information; identifying possible causes/underlying factors; and separating symptoms from causes.

2. *Excel - Develop and examine alternatives/solutions* - To find an appropriate solution, managers must diligently consider a range of possibilities. This stage involves examining assumptions, researching information, not jumping to obvious conclusion, adopting different perspectives, and managing ambiguity and confusion due to multiple options.
3. *Excel -Decision making* – Module three covers evaluating alternatives using data, information, assumptions, tangible and intangible cost-benefit analyses, theories and principles (including ethical principles); and arriving at one or two solution(s).
4. *Presenting your decision through an excel critical thinking project* – Taking ownership of your decision, being aware of its consequences, and effectively communicating your decision to others.
5. *Microsoft Office Specialist: Excel Associate (Excel 365)* – Upon completion of the course, all students must take the excel certification exam to pass the course.

Course Structure

This course is an online course that lasts 8 weeks. Students will need to make arrangements to take the MOS Excel Associate Certification on the scheduled date and time, which will be held in Frisco Landing Room 480. Makeup MOS Excel exams cannot be rescheduled. Plan accordingly.

Course Pre-requisites and/or Other Restrictions

Restricted to College of Business majors.

Course Objectives

This course introduces students to the importance of using reliable sources to make decisions in business, using critical thinking and problem-solving skills to evaluate the feasibility of decisions, presenting effectively and making viable recommendations, while establishing and maintaining collaborative relationships with others. Upon completion of this course, learners will be able to:

1. Recall key concept for critical thinking and decision making in business, using primarily Microsoft Excel 365.
2. Identify how different parts of excel works
3. Apply basic computing principles to develop useful spreadsheets with Microsoft Excel 365 to prepare for EXCEL Certification
4. Demonstrate effective use of software by passing the Microsoft Excel 365 Basic Certification.

Required Materials



IAC ISBN 9780357881996 (one-term access)

Technical Requirement & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer, laptop (note: recommended MAC users should use Citrix from the COB website)
- Microsoft Excel 365
- Reliable Internet access
- Webcam
- Speakers
- Microphone
- Access to MindTap/Sam Software
- UNT Canvas
- Canvas mobile app

Getting Help

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the canvas environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130 – Check schedule hours

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm Check schedule hours

Telephone Availability: Check schedule hours

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm Check schedule hours

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Student Support Services

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (<https://registrar.unt.edu/registration>)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (<https://financialaid.unt.edu/>)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services>)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center>)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (<https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center>)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>)
- [Student Affairs Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>)
- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center>)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (<https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance>)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)
- [MathLab](https://math.unt.edu/mathlab) (<https://math.unt.edu/mathlab>)

Students with Disabilities:

"The G. Brint Ryan College of Business in cooperation with UNT and the Office of Disability Accommodation, complies with the Americans with Disabilities by making reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu."

Tutoring Services

ITDS online tutoring is available this semester (see canvas for details)

Zoom sessions will be available (see canvas for details)

ITDS tutoring is available through zoom (see canvas for details)

Code of Conduct and Ethics

Academic integrity must be exhibited in your academic work, methods and conduct. Course work for which you receive an individual grade must be your original, individual effort. If any evidence exists of copying, cheating, or any other forms of academic dishonesty on all, or part, of your graded course work, you (and any others involved) will be awarded a ZERO for that work. Sharing files also counts as academic dishonesty. We will use Turnitin.com to monitor academic integrity for classroom submissions. A second incident will result in a grade of F in this course and a recommendation for further action by the office of the Vice President for Student Development.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Your grade will be determined on the basis of your performance on the activities identified below. No make-up for exams, simulations, or homework will be given. No "extra work" will be assigned to individuals as a replacement for,

or in addition to, these components. All points will show up in Canvas. Be sure to review the grading schema below to determine your letter grade.

MOS EXCEL TRAINING:

Excel training and practice exams will be conducted through Canvas/Cengage. During the simulation students will be able to observe, practice, and apply each task while engaging and learning Excel. You will have **2 attempts** to complete the training with the highest-grade counting.

MOS EXCEL PRACTIC EXAMS

Excel practice exams will be conducted through Canvas/Cengage. Please note that while it is a practice exam, you receive a score towards your grade on the exam. You will have **2 attempts** to complete the practice exam with the highest-grade counting. You may retake the MOS Skills Exams twice and have three attempts on the MOS Practice Certification Exam.

COLLABORATIVE TEAM PROJECT

Each group will be assigned a team project. Employers consider critical thinking and presentation important skills when hiring employees. In this collaborative team project, you will develop critical Excel skills, critical thinking approaches and the ability to communicate confidently and competently with a team presentation. The project will have a case scenario where you will gather data and use excel to demonstrate your findings while using Microsoft PowerPoint to present your conclusions. The collaborative team project is worth a total of 110 points.

GROUP PARTICIPATION POLICY

Group work is the cornerstone of this course. Except for the professionalism portion of the grading scheme, everything else (assignments and project) will be completed in groups. Details related to team formation will be delivered in class and/or on the course website. Because of the volume of group work and the possibility that some team members may not contribute to the overall team success, a team may document problematic behaviors and recommend that a non-performing member of the team be “fired.” In such circumstances, I will meet with the team and create a performance improvement plan (PIP) for the offending team member. **If the team member fails to meet the obligations outlined in the PIP, or if the problematic behaviors reoccur after completion of the PIP, the student will be removed from the team and must complete all remaining deliverables alone. The maximum grade that may be achieved on a given deliverable by an individual fired from their team is 80% of the associated points.**

CASE STUDIES

There will be one case study (critical thinking exercise) during the semester. This is an individual assignment, and the instructions will be provided on Canvas during the Zoom meeting.

Certiport Exams

You must take the exam scheduled for your section only at Frisco Landing, Room 480.

Uniform procedures are essential to a standardized testing program. To ensure comparable scores, all students must follow the same testing procedures. Test location, date, and time will be given on the first day of class. The Microsoft Office Specialist Excel exam is an industry standard exam.

The Ryan College of Business has paid for all BUSI 3100 students to take the MOS Excel exam certification up to two times during the semester. Rules and guidelines follow:

- All students must come to the Frisco campus to take their exam.
- Students must take the exam with their regularly scheduled section during week 7 of the semester for their first attempt. If a student does not take the exam on that day, they forfeit one attempt and may take it the following week (week 8).
- If a student has an ODA modification, it is the student's responsibility to notify the professor in the first week of class and to request an accommodation from Certiport in the first week of class. The student must provide proof that they requested a special modification from Certiport to their instructor. It takes several weeks for Certiport to set up an exam for an ODA student, and therefore, if a student does not request the modification during week one of classes, they may lose their opportunity to take the exam and may not pass the course.
- There are no retakes allowed outside of the normal exam dates. Plan accordingly.

DAY OF EXAM PROCEDURES FOR STUDENTS

- Students must arrive 15 minutes prior to exam start time and follow social distancing requirements at the Frisco campus, Frisco Landing Room 480.
- **You must check in and out with your professor. Your professor will be there the entire time.**
 - Once the exam starts, no one is allowed to enter the Test Center to take the exam. No exceptions. Student will forfeit their attempt if they arrive late.
- Students must have a valid UNT visible at all times during the exam
- Students must show proof of a valid Certiport account to the instructor
- No cell phones used or on desk during exam
- No food or drink in the test center
- After exam is over and after the student leaves the Test Center, the student will download their certificate from Certiport. To receive credit for the exam the student must upload their results in canvas the same day to receive credit.

RESULTS	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000
Required Score										
Your Score										

SECTION ANALYSIS		FINAL SCORE	
Manage Worksheets and Workbooks	40%	Required Score	700
Manage Data Cells and Ranges	75%	Your Score	721
Manage Tables and Table Data	83%	OUTCOME Pass 	
Perform Operations by using Formulas and Functions	50%		
Manage Charts	63%		

Students must pass the MOS exam grade to earn 400 points. If a student fails the MOS exam, 100 points are awarded. If a student fails to upload their certification exam score report to Canvas on time, the maximum grade they may receive on the certification exam is 250 points, awarded solely at the instructor's discretion.

Attendance

Attendance in a Remote/Online course is just as important as in a face-to-face class. Regular attendance is an important factor for student success in any Remote/Online course. Regular and punctual attendance for the full period of each class is expected (irrespective of whether roll calls are made or otherwise). Absences and tardiness are likely to cause you to miss the presentation of significant material and this may result in a lower grade. Simply logging into Canvas does not constitute participation in the course. I recommend logging in a minimum of three times a week to complete a module in addition to our weekly Remote class. Each module has an opening introduction and overview for the week. It is also required that students maintain respectful and courteous behavior for our class.

Students who will miss class work because of a university-sponsored activity must arrange with the instructor to complete any work that will be missed before their absence rather than after the absence. Family events, weddings, ski trips, car trouble, car wrecks, being sick, etc. are NOT what the University considers a “university authorized absence” or a “state law exception”.

If you find that there is no grade recorded for submitted work, or if you want to dispute a grade, you must send your instructor an email about the problem NO LATER THAN 2 DAYS after the submission date. Beyond that date, we will no longer deal with this type of problem.

GRADE CRITERIA:

The instructor will post UNOFFICIAL grade reports using Canvas. All grades from MindTap will automatically sync with Canvas. If you find an error, you must immediately contact your professor. Proof of your MOS Certification must be uploaded as a graded assignment within Canvas in order to receive a grade.

Assessments	Grading
Orientation quiz	5
Statement of Understanding ITDS Policies & Procedures	5
Meet your Classmates discussion	10
Certiport account setup	10
In class assignments (ICA) – cannot be made up if you miss class	100
Collaborative team project	110
Case Study	110
5 MOS training @ 50 points each – plan to earn at least 80% on each training	250
5 MOS exams @ 50 points each – plan to earn at least 80% on each exam	250
1 MOS total practice exam @ 250 points – plan to earn at least 80%	250
Microsoft Office Specialist Excel 365 (MO-210 exam). If you score 700 or more points, you will receive 400 points, you will receive 100 points. If you do not take the exam, your grade will be recorded as zero.	400
Total points	1500

Note: No makeup assignments and/or exams. In-class assignments cannot be made up. Your attendance is required to each week's Zoom class meetings to complete and earn in-class assignment points. The only exceptions must come from the Dean of Student Services.

Important for late submission of all assignments: Students will lose 10% of their grade for assignments submitted after the designated due date.

Total Points	Letter Grade
1350 & above	A
1200 - 1349	B
1050 - 1199	C
900 - 1049	D
899 & below	F

INCOMPLETE GRADES: A grade of "I" will be given only in exceptional circumstances to passing students who have completed at least 70% of the course, and only for circumstances occurring during the last week of regular class meetings. That is, only emergency situations such as an illness or death in your immediate family constitute exceptional circumstances (and these must be fully documented).

GRADE DISPUTES:

You are required to wait 24 hours before contacting me to dispute a grade. During that time, I expect you to review the assignment details and reflect on the quality of the work you submitted. If you would still like to meet, email me to set up a Zoom meeting (I cannot discuss grades over email). You should come to our scheduled Zoom meeting with specific examples that demonstrate that you earned a higher grade than you received. If you miss your scheduled meeting, you forfeit your right to a grade dispute.

You have **one week** after an assignment or exam is returned to request a review of its grade. The instructor has final authority to determine the credit for an assignment or examination.

Any problems encountered in the administration of this course must be addressed using the procedure outlined below.

1. Make an appointment and discuss the issue with your professor.
2. If the problem cannot be resolved at this meeting, you and your instructor complete and sign the Student Problem Form.
3. Make an appointment with the BUSI 3100 course coordinator, Dr. Ted Peterson (ted.peterson@unt.edu), and send the completed form.

If you do not contact me to schedule a meeting within 7 days of receiving your grade, you also forfeit your right to dispute the grade.

ETHICAL ACADEMIC BEHAVIOR IN ITDS CLASSES

The UNT College of Business and the ITDS Department expect their students to behave at all times in an ethical manner. There are at least two reasons for this. First, ethical behavior affirms the personal value and worth of the individual. Second, professionals in all fields (but particularly in information systems, accounting, and HR) frequently handle confidential information on behalf of their employers and clients. Thus, employers of UNT College of Business graduates expect ethical conduct from their employees because that behavior is crucial to the success of the organization. Academic dishonesty is a major violation of ethical behavior.

Students are expected to read (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>) UNT's Student Standards of Academic Integrity which defines academic dishonesty and sets out the consequences for unethical academic behavior. Cheating and plagiarism are the most common types of academic dishonesty.

The UNT's Student Standards of Academic Integrity policy defines cheating as: The use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:

1. Use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes or other assessments;
2. Dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
3. Acquisition, without permission, of tests, notes or other academic materials belonging to a faculty or staff member of the University;
4. Dual submission of a paper or project, or re-submission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
5. Any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.

The university's policy defines plagiarism as the "Use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:

1. The knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation.
2. The knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.

Examples of academic dishonesty in an ITDS class include: copying answers from another person's paper; using notes during an exam; copying computer code from another person's work; having someone else complete your assignments or take tests on your behalf; stealing code printouts, software, or exams; recycling assignments submitted by others in prior or current semesters as your own; and copying the words or ideas of others from books, articles, reports, presentations, etc. for use as your own thoughts without proper attribution (i.e., plagiarism). It does not matter whether you received permission from the owner of the copied work; claiming the material as your own is still academic dishonesty.

The ITDS Department believes it is very important to protect honest students from unfair competition with anyone trying to gain an advantage through academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in ITDS classes, and those who engage in such behavior are subject to sanctions as outlined in the UNT's policy and/or the course syllabus. You are strongly encouraged to read the policy carefully so that you are aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty and the consequences of this unethical behavior.

Start of the week	Assignment/Exams
Week 1 8/17	Meet Your Instructor / Introduce Yourself (Meet your classmates discussion) Orientation Quiz Start Here Confirmation Quiz Sign up for a Certiport Account Sign up for ODA in Certiport if needed
Week 2 8/24	Manage Worksheets and Workbooks Collaborative Team Project assigned Case Study Assigned Team up
Week 3 8/31	Manage Tables and table data Manage Data Cells and Ranges- second part
Week 4 9/7	Perform Operations with Formulas and Functions
Week 5 9/14	Manage Charts Case Study Due date
Week 6 9/21	Collaborative Team Project Excel Associate Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) Practice Exam Last day to complete all MindTap training, exams, and case studies
Week 7 9/28	Microsoft Office Specialist Excel Exam at the Frisco Landing Room 480
Week 8 10/5	Second chance for exam – for ONLY those who failed the MOS Exam during week 7 (First attempt)
Last Day of the semester Oct 9, 2026	