



Enhancing Teaching and Learning and Graduate Employability  
through University-enterprise Cooperation

# ELEGANT

## Curriculum Innovation in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: Enabling Teaching-Research Nexus

Webinar

Nov 11, 2020

**Issam Damaj, PhD ME BE SMIEEE MASEE**

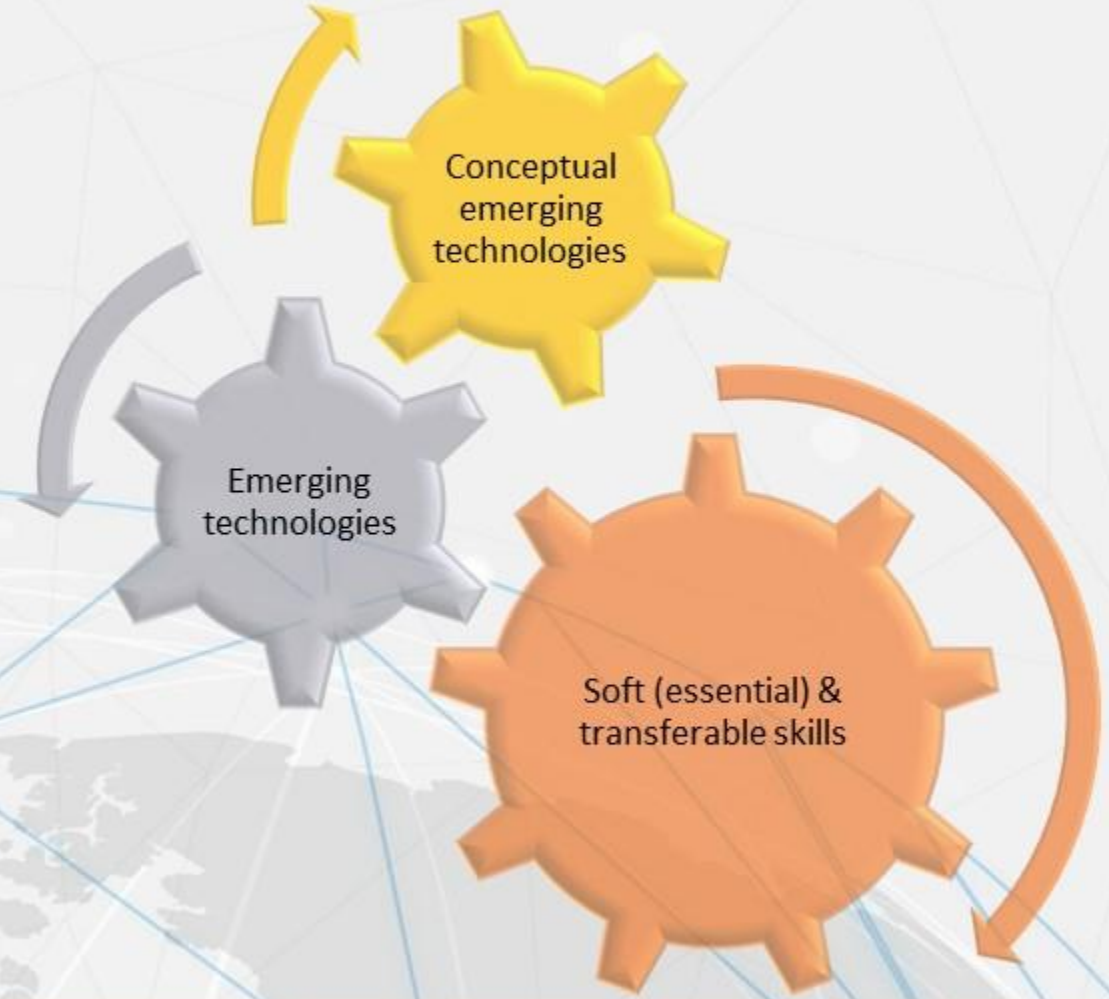
Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Director of the Center for Quality Assurance

Beirut Arab University

# Engineering Practice and Computer Engineering Curriculum

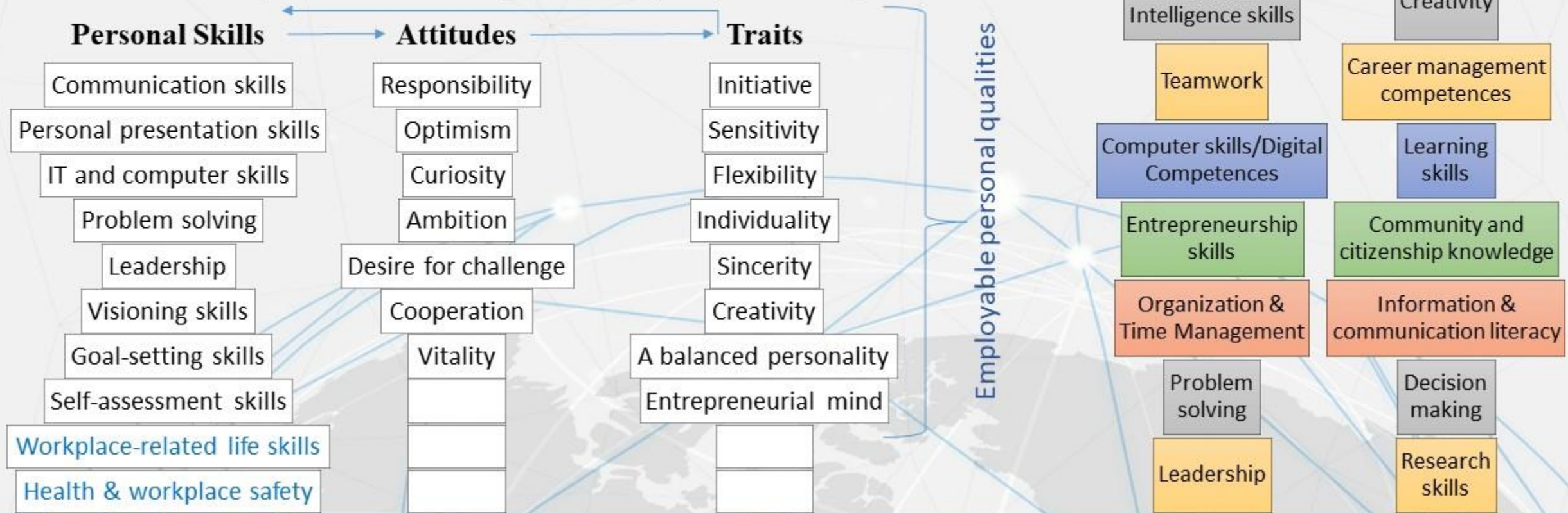
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS, US) shows that computer occupations are expected to increase 17.7% by 2022
- Among the top emerging technologies:
  - Internet of Things
  - **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning**
  - 5G
  - Serverless Computing
  - Blockchain (Cybersecurity)
  - Robotics
  - Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality
  - Drones





# Computer Engineering Education & Employability

- General list of employability skills
- Choice of skills depends on job market (Example national list)
- Essential input in curriculum design to enable good professional practice





# Integration into Curriculum

## Design Perspective 2 Key **Characteristics** of Computer Engineering Graduates

Graduates

System  
Level  
Perspective

Depth  
and  
Breadth

Design  
Experiences

Use of  
Tools

Professional  
Practice

Communication  
Skills

## Design Perspective 1 Curriculum **Components**



Good integration op.

Culminating Design  
Courses

Practicum,  
Internship, or Co-op  
Programs

Entrepreneurial  
Innovation Courses

Professionalism,  
Ethics, and Law  
Courses

Team-based  
Implementation  
Courses

Good integration op.

Well-articulated in ABET EAC Student Outcomes 1 through 7

Well-observed in ACM/IEEE Curriculum Recommendations, Computer Engineering, 2016.

Circuits and  
Electronics

Computing  
Algorithms

Computer  
Architecture and  
Organization

Digital Design

Embedded Systems

Computer Networks

Preparation for  
Professional Practice

Information Security

Signal Processing

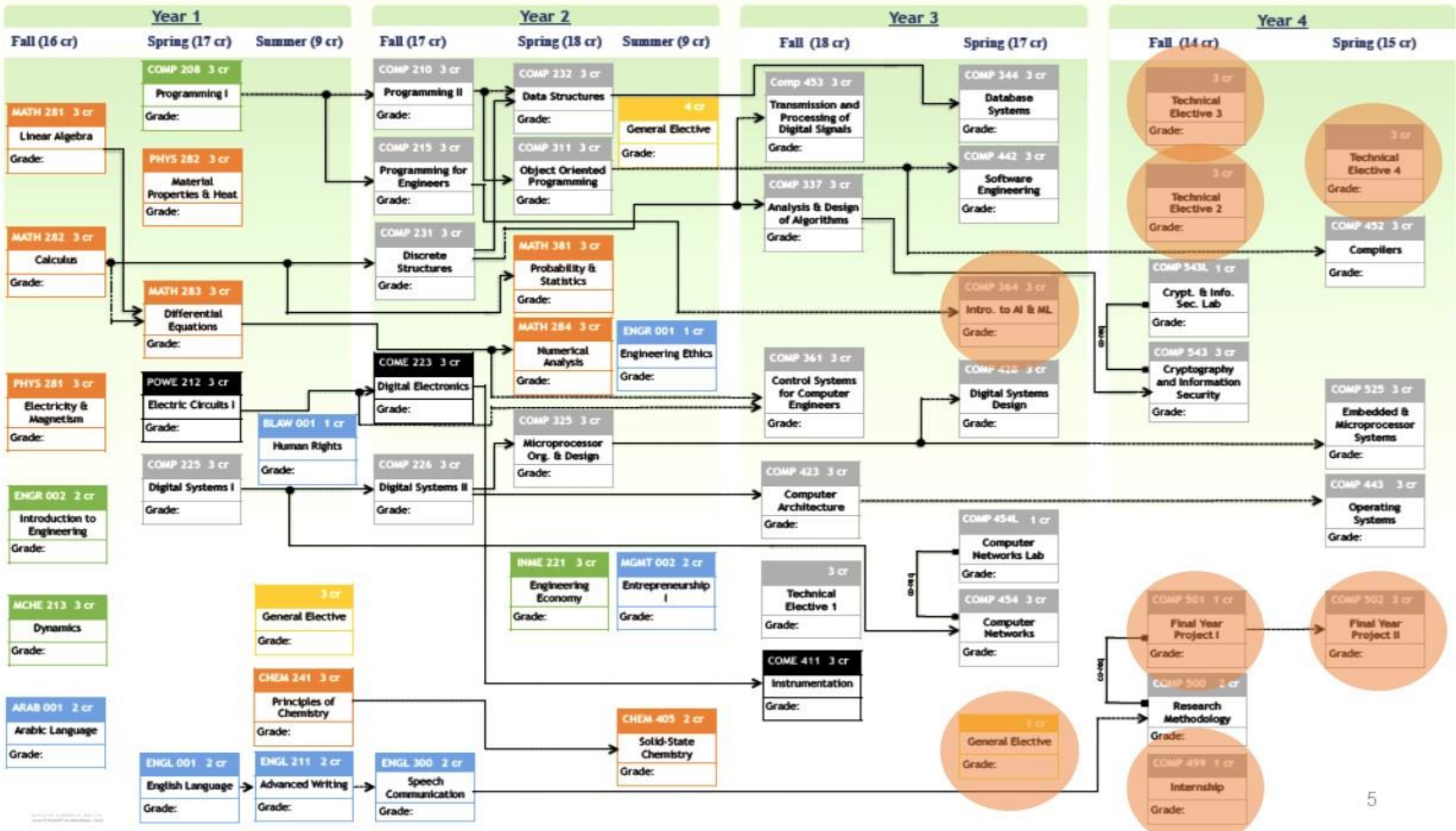
Systems and Project  
Engineering

Systems Resource  
Management

Software Design



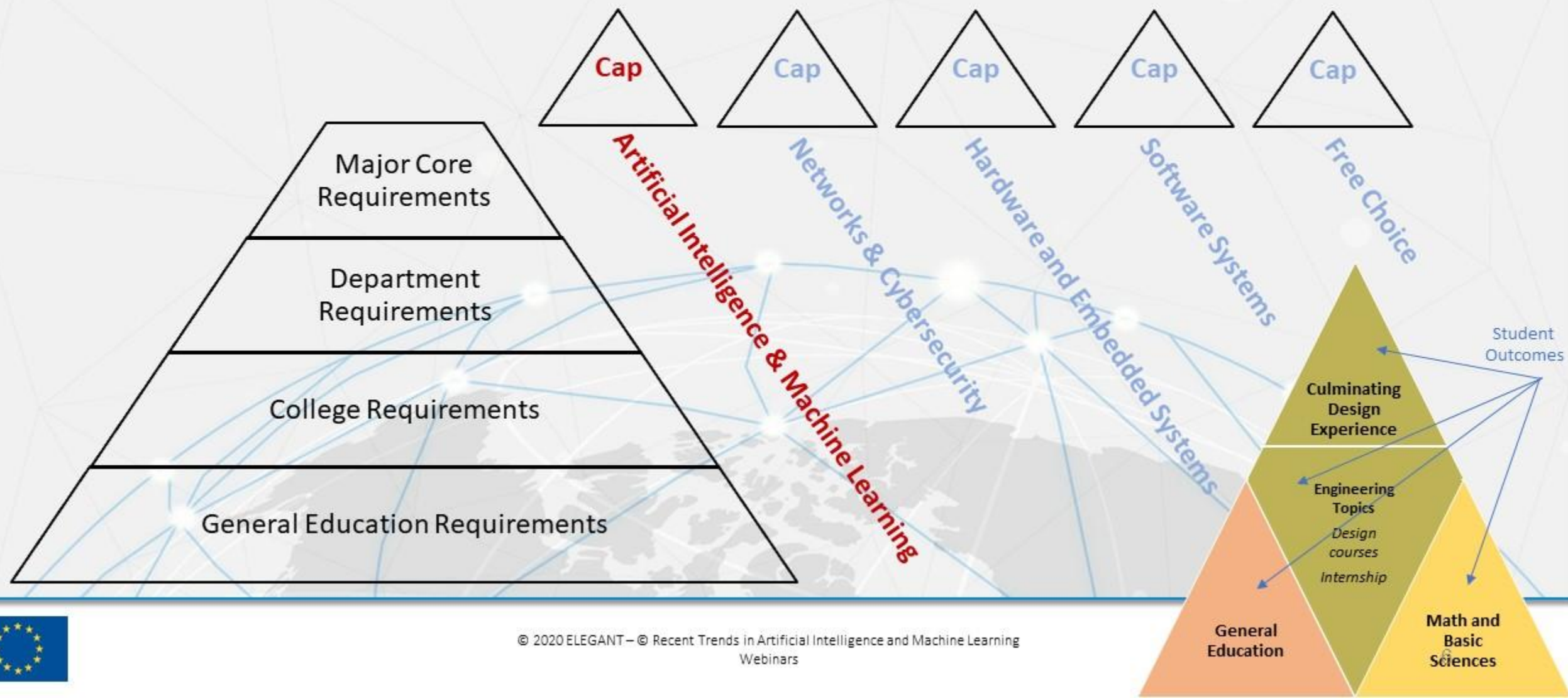






# Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Track

## BAU Computer Engineering Program





# Cap and Track Structures

- A Track is a preset list of 19 Credits of major core and elective courses.
- A Cap is a preset list 9 Credits of Elective Courses.
- A Track has a 10-Credit foundation from Core Courses and a Cap.
- Select a Cap of elective courses and join a Track.





# Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Track

Introduction to Computer Programming

Track Elective in AI & ML 1

Intermediate Computer Programming

Track Elective in AI & ML 2

Data Structures and Algorithms

Track Elective in AI & ML 3

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Capstone Design Project: Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Computer  
Vision

Smart Cities

Autonomous  
Vehicles

Human  
Computer  
Interaction

Machine  
Learning in  
Hardware

Bio-inspired  
Computing

Fuzzy Logic

Artificial  
Intelligence

Deep Learning

Machine  
Learning

Computer  
Vision

Programming in  
Python

Big Data  
Analytics

Data  
Visualization

Natural  
Language  
Processing

Computational  
Linguistics

Model  
Cognition and  
Human  
Reasoning

Data Mining

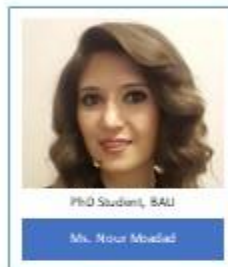






# Intelligent Hardware Research Group

- An Enabling Academic Structure
- Mission:
  - The Intelligent Hardware (iHW) Research Group is a dynamic constituent of its wider community and aims at making world-class research contributions, disseminating knowledge, and building collaborations.
- Primary Research Interests:
  - Hardware Design
  - Performance Evaluation
  - Smart Cities
  - Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning



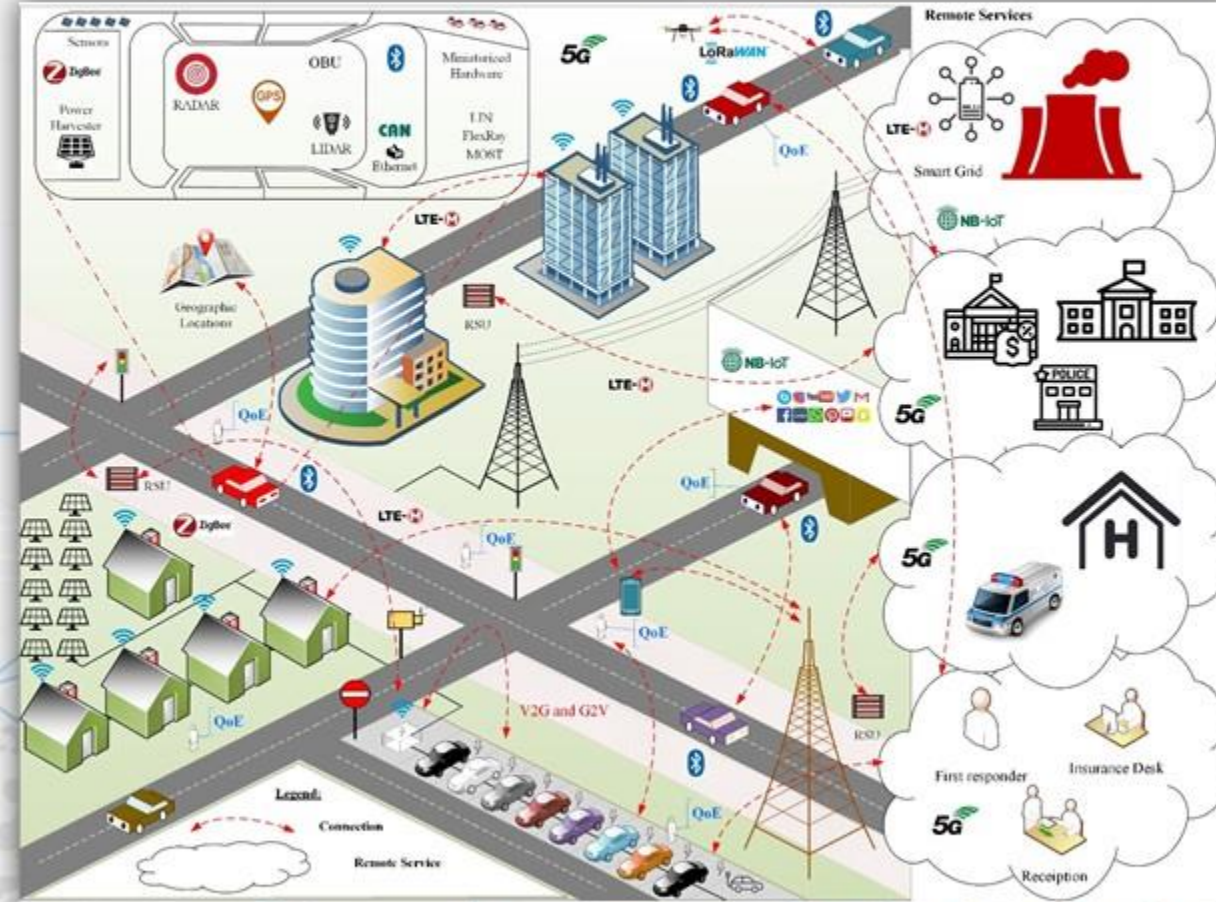




# Teaching-Research Nexus

- **Course COMP 438 Performance Evaluation**
- An iHW Research Group Project
- Research Team
  - I. Damaj, S. Al Khatib, T. Naous, W. Lawand, and Z. Abderazzak
- Survey Paper Objectives:
  - **Present** applications within ITS where ML is of benefit.
  - **Identify** MHDs that satisfy the needs of ML-driven ITS.
  - **Identify** the choice factors of ML techniques and MHDs.
  - **Synthesize** different taxonomies.
  - **Develop** an evaluation framework that enables cross-matching.
  - **Validate** the developed framework.
  - **Analyze** common and good practices.
  - **Determine** important limitations and gaps.
  - **Refine** a set of pointers to future directions.

## Intelligent Transportation Systems: A Survey on Modern Hardware Devices for the Era of Machine Learning



Under Review by IEEE Transactions on ITS