Fairleigh Dickinson University — Vancouver Campus

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT)

Date: July 2026
To: BSIT External Review ERT, via the Degree Quality Assessment Board
From: Office of the Associate Vice-President Academic, FDU Vancouver
Re: Institutional response to the BSIT External Review Team Report (June 2026)

On behalf of Fairleigh Dickinson University Vancouver, we thank the External Review Team (ERT) for its careful review of the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology program and for its constructive recommendations. The University welcomes the ERT's support for the continued offering of the program and accepts the great majority of its recommendations. Of the seventeen recommendations, the University accepts sixteen in full or in part and is already acting on many; a single element of one recommendation is respectfully qualified, as set out below. All twenty supporting documentation requests are being answered, either from existing evidence or through materials now in preparation.

Recommendations already reflected in current practice

Several strengths the ERT identified are established program practices. Continuing-faculty coverage is monitored across multiple years and has driven concrete staffing action, recovering to its highest level in six years following new full-time hires. Retention and attrition are tracked systematically using multi-year enrollment, grade, and withdrawal data, which identify academic transfer as the leading factor. Hands-on, project-based assessment is embedded across core courses, and internship quality assurance operates through signed agreements, IT-relevance screening, employer evaluations, and structured student reflection. Cybersecurity is already required within the curriculum.

Recommendations accepted for implementation

The University accepts and is planning a coordinated program-renewal package: new coursework in Python programming, mathematical foundations for machine learning, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cloud computing, together with a Game Development concentration, with new courses beginning Winter 2027. Accompanying actions include a published computer-based elective list and rotation, a programming-language progression map, an introduce-reinforce-master map for AI, a documented course-currency review cycle, a cross-curricular portfolio requirement, a program-level AI assessment and academic-integrity framework aligned with University policy, an AI Innovation Lab access plan tied to the Fall 2026 Oakridge relocation, strengthened employment-outcome reporting, a consolidated statement of faculty professional-development and research support, improved advising documents, and a student research and innovation award. Owners and target dates for each action are recorded in the University's internal implementation plan.

Point respectfully qualified

The University accepts the ERT's recommendation to increase space for computer-based electives and current technical courses and is doing so through the additions above. It respectfully does not adopt the associated suggestion to reduce English and general-communication requirements. The general-communication requirement consists of two courses totaling six of the program's 122 credits (Composition I and II); these map directly to the program's professional-communication learning outcome and to University Core requirements, and are regarded as a foundation rather than surplus load. A third course, Technical Communications, is already IT and engineering focused rather than general composition. The University therefore proposes to expand technical space without reducing the communication foundation that supports student success.

Supporting documentation

The University is providing responses to all twenty documentation requests. The majority are answered from existing evidence, including admission and progression data, internship quality-assurance records, PAC input to curriculum change, and library and facilities resources. A small number depend on materials now being finalized or confirmed with the relevant offices, including term-specific implementation timelines, transition and course-rotation documentation, cloud-platform access confirmation, and a consolidated professional-development reference. These will be completed and filed as part of the program-review record.

The University appreciates the ERT's thorough and collegial review and looks forward to continuing to strengthen the BSIT program.

Dr. Ramin Shadmehr
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, FDU Vancouver