



University of
South Australia



Government
of South Australia

tafeSA

LBCF Joint Program

Bachelor of Information Technology

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Overview of joint UniSA/TAFESA Degree offering

- History
- Educational Features
- Pathway version
- Structure Detail
- Issues
- Questions



History

- Based on years of articulation work
- Detailed analysis of relationship between TAFESA and UniSA IT delivery content and assessment approach leading to a detailed competencies/course bi-directional articulation agreement.
- 50% of the 3 year UniSA degree through TAFE credit from the Diploma in IT – Software Development



History (cont)

- Developed through
 - Commitment to task by both parties
 - Trust and respect
 - Flexibility by UniSA and TAFESA
 - Understanding and acceptance of differences in assessment approach
 - Similar overarching educational philosophies (eg. Integrity of assessment, importance of graduate qualities/employability skills)



Educational Features

- Three years full-time study as per standard degree at UniSA
- Students are issued a degree by UniSA
- Students can exit with vocational qualifications (Training Package qualifications) from TAFESA.
- Students can switch to AQF level 5 vocational qualification from TAFESA without any time penalties



Educational Features (cont)

- Different to a standard articulation arrangement where a complete TAFE qualification allows credit in a University program– a linear approach with credit application instigated by the student.
- UniSA courses and TAFE competencies are done in parallel with credit instigated and organised by the Institution.
- Combines the vocational delivery & assessment approach of TAFE with the delivery and assessment approach of university.



Educational Features (cont)

- Students are given the opportunity to experience the two styles of delivery and assessment so
 - The cultural shock between school and university is minimised.
 - Alternatives are created to minimise time lost if they have trouble coping



Degree Pathway Version

Variety of ways to meet minimum entrance requirements (MER)

Two of which are

- SACE and appropriate score (ATAR)
- Completed a Certificate IV or higher

What options exists for those not meeting the MER?



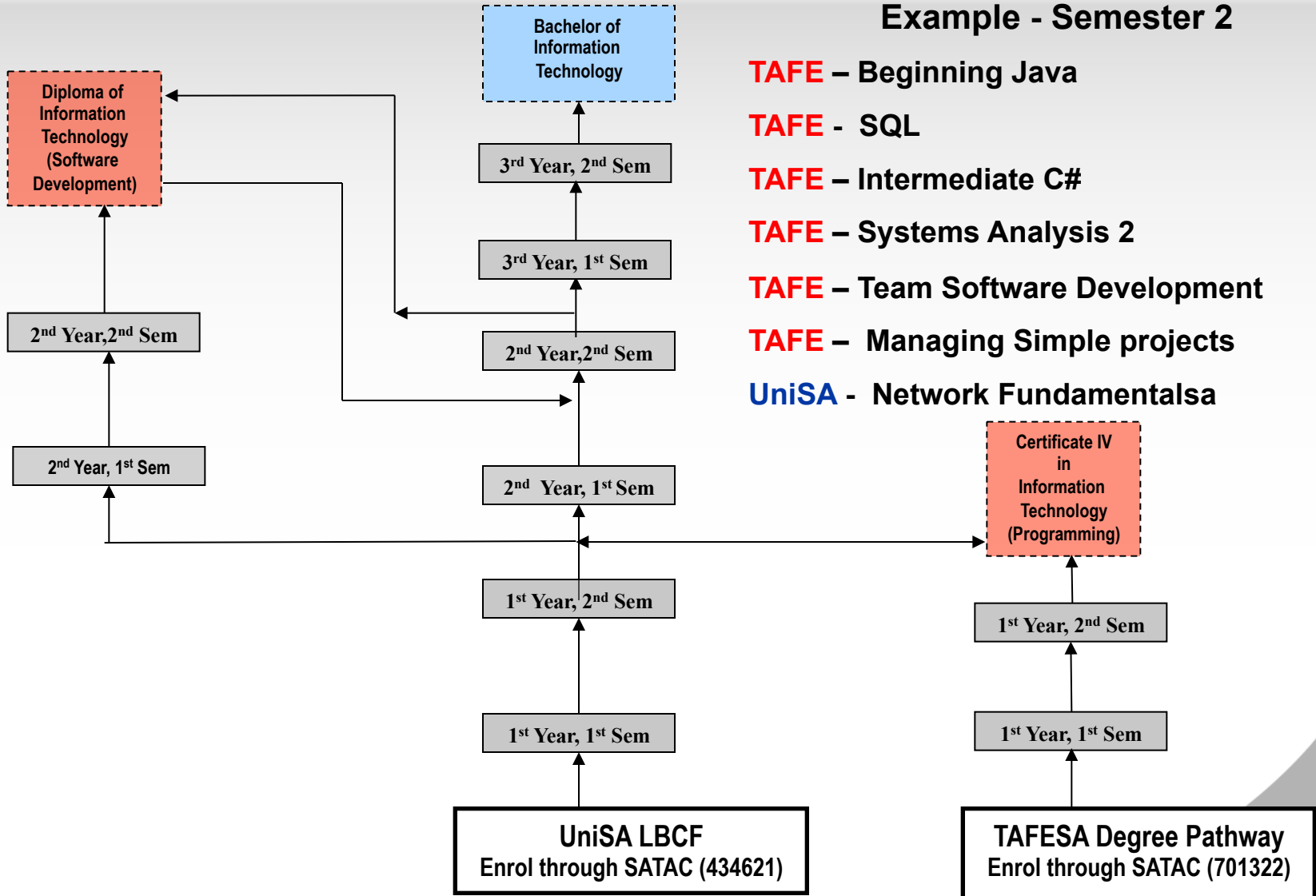
Degree Pathway (cont)

- Alternative pathway emerged.
- Students demonstrate capability by successfully completing a Certificate IV then moving onto joint program with no loss of time.
- Slightly increased TAFE load spread across final 4 semester
- A linear approach would not give as much credit or allow completion within the 3 yr time frame



Example - Semester 2

- TAFE** – Beginning Java
- TAFE** - SQL
- TAFE** – Intermediate C#
- TAFE** – Systems Analysis 2
- TAFE** – Team Software Development
- TAFE** – Managing Simple projects
- UniSA** - Network Fundamentalsa





Advantages to Institutions

- Improved and ongoing interaction between Uni and TAFE.
 - Joint marketing efforts
 - Joint quality assurance efforts.
 - Forced communication of changes to content on either side (UniSA - revised programs, TAFESA – new TP)
 - Ongoing student feedback on content and delivery differences, similarities, positives and negatives



Issues

- The goal: to provide a set of administrative procedures for students to follow that will make dealing with two educational sectors seamless – difficult as students are enrolled on both the UniSA and TAFE SA student management systems and considered both a TAFE and Uni student.
- Steep learning curve for admin staff due to terminology differences, different student management systems and process differences
- Timetabling – ensuring sensible timetable for students at each stage across Institutions is a huge challenge.



Issues (cont)

- Program changes – these are amplified as they are affected by developments in both sectors and Institutions.
- Over a period of 5 years
 - TAFE SA– 3 Training Package changes, 4 management changes
 - UniSA – 2 program re-writes, retirement of original Program Director
 - All occurring at different times in the 5 year period
- Feedback from students is that changes and the transition complications are the greatest frustrations.



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Questions?