

University of Pretoria Yearbook 2021

Formal aspects of computing (II) 441 (COS 441)

Qualification Undergraduate

Faculty [Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology](#)

Module credits 15.00

NQF Level 08

Prerequisites COS 301 and at least two COS modules at third-year level.

Contact time 2 lectures per week

Language of tuition Module is presented in English

Department Computer Science

Period of presentation Semester 1 or Semester 2

Module content

The status of Computer Science, including software science, as a proper “science” is closely related with our ability to construct accurate and precise models of the structures and processes of computational systems. The precision of these models is closely related with our ability to express them in formal notations with mathematical rigour, such that it also becomes possible to reason formally about relevant and interesting properties of these models. Examples of such interesting properties are logical consistency (i.e. absence of inherent contradictions), or safety properties such as deadlock freeness. This module focuses on formal languages and techniques which are suitable for such purposes. Of particular importance are process algebras with which systems of parallel and concurrent computation can be formally described. Other suitable formalisms may be discussed as well, such that the contents of this module may slightly vary from year to year.

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