MoSCoW Method

The **MoSCoW** method is a prioritization technique to reach a common understanding with stakeholders on the importance they place on the delivery of each requirement - also known as **MoSCoW** prioritization or **MoSCoW** analysis.

The term MoSCoW itself is an acronym derived from the first letter of each of four prioritization categories:
- Must have
- Should have
- Could have
- Won't have

The categories are typically understood as:

Must have

Requirements labeled as **Must have** are critical to the current delivery time box in order for it to be a success. If even one **Must have** requirement is not included, the delivery should be considered a failure. Requirements can be downgraded from Must have, by agreement with all relevant stakeholders. **MUST** can also be considered an acronym for the Minimum Usable Subset.

Should have

Requirements labeled as **Should have** are important but not necessary for delivery in the current delivery time box. While **Should have** requirements can be as important as **Must have**, they are often not as time-critical or there may be another way to satisfy the requirement, so that it can be held back until a future delivery time box.

Could have

Requirements labeled as **Could have** are desirable but not necessary, and could improve user experience or customer satisfaction for little development cost. These will typically be included if time and resources permit.

Won't have (this time)

Requirements labeled as **Won't have** have been agreed by stakeholders as the least-critical, lowest-payback items or not appropriate at that time. As a result, **Won't have** requirements are not planned into the schedule for the next delivery time box. Won't have requirements are either dropped or reconsidered for inclusion in a later time box.