

University ERP (Java + Swing) — Project Brief (8 Weeks)

Specification with Testing & Evaluation Details

1. What you will build

A desktop application written in **Java** using **Swing** that helps a university manage **courses**, **class sections**, **enrollments**, and **grades**, with three kinds of users:

Student — register/drop sections, view timetable, grades, download transcript.

Instructor — manage assigned sections, enter scores, compute final grades, view simple stats.

Admin — add users (students/instructors), create courses/sections, assign instructors, toggle **Maintenance Mode** (view-only for students/instructors).

Data is stored in **two databases**: (1) an **Auth DB** for usernames, roles, and *password hashes* (UNIX “shadow” style); and (2) an **ERP DB** for everything else (students, instructors, courses, sections, enrollments, grades, settings).

2. Access rules (who can do what)

Admin: full control—manage users, courses, sections, assignments, maintenance mode.

Instructor: only for their own sections, e.g. grades, year, course.

Student: only for their own registrations and records.

If a user tries an action they are not allowed to do, show a clear message and do nothing.

Maintenance Mode. When ON, students and instructors can still log in and view, but *cannot change anything*. Show a visible banner in the UI.

3. Features and behavior

A. Common

Login → open a role-matched dashboard.

Clear messages: success, error, not allowed, full class, wrong password, etc.

Search & tables: list courses/sections in sortable tables.

B. Student

Browse **course catalog** (code, title, credits, capacity, instructor).

Register for a section only if seats are available and not a duplicate.

Drop a section before your stated deadline.

View **timetable** (their registered sections by day/time).

See **grades**: assessment components (e.g., quiz, midterm, end-sem) and **final grade**.

Optional: add a simple prerequisite rule and document it

[Download transcript](#) (CSV or PDF).

C. Instructor

See [My Sections](#) for the term.

Enter scores for assessments you define and **compute final** using your weighting rule (e.g., 20/30/50).

Show simple **class stats** (averages, etc.).

Optional: **CSV import/export** for grades.

D. Admin

Add users (students/instructors/admins if needed).

Create/edit courses and sections (course, day/time/room, capacity, semester/year).

Assign instructor to a section.

Toggle Maintenance Mode (ON/OFF) and display a banner.

Optional: simple **backup/restore** for ERP DB.

4. Data to store

Auth DB (separate). `users_auth user_id, username, role, password_hash, status, last_login`). No real passwords—only secure hashes. Optional: `password_history`.

Student DB Tables such as:

```
students user_id, roll_no, program, year)  
instructors user_id, department, ...)  
courses code, title, credits)  
sections course_id, instructor_id, day_time, room, capacity, semester, year)  
enrollments student_id, section_id, status) (prevent duplicates)  
grades enrollment_id, component, score, final_grade)  
settings key, value) with maintenance_on = true/false
```

Linking both DBs: `students.user_id` and `instructors.user_id` match `users_auth.user_id`.

5. Suggested package layout (folders)

These are hints to keep work readable:

`edu.univ.erp.ui` — all windows/panels/dialogs. Optional subfolders: `ui.common`, `ui.auth`, `ui.student`, `ui.instructor`, `ui.admin`.

`edu.univ.erp.domain` — simple data classes (Student, Instructor, Course, Section, Enrollment, Grade, Settings). No DB/UI code.

`edu.univ.erp.service` — the “brain” methods screens call (register, drop, enter scores, compute final, add users, toggle maintenance). Changes always check access rules & maintenance flag.

`edu.univ.erp.data` — database helpers for the ERP DB (read/write students, courses, sections, enrollments, grades, settings).

`edu.univ.erp.access` — small helper that answers “Is this allowed?” and “Is maintenance ON?”

`edu.univ.erp.auth` — login, password hashing/verification, current session (talks to Auth DB only). Optional subfolders: `auth.store`, `auth.hash`, `auth.session`.

`edu.univ.erp.util` — CSV/PDF export, date/time helpers, message helpers, simple logger.

6. Passwords and login (UNIX “shadow” idea)

Keep passwords in **Auth DB only**, never in ERP DB.

Store only **hashes** (e.g., bcrypt), not real passwords.

Login flow: lookup username in Auth DB → verify typed password against hash → if OK, remember user_id+role in session → load profile from ERP DB.

Add **Change Password**; consider blocking login after several wrong tries (bonus).

7. Non-functional expectations

Clean UI: clear labels, sensible layouts, helpful messages; sortable tables are a plus.

Safe inputs: validate before saving (no negative capacity, valid dates).

Stable: do not crash; handle errors with messages.

Separation: screens do not talk to DB directly; they call service/brain.

8. What to submit

1. **Working app:** quick “How to run” with credentials.
2. **Sample data:** one admin, one instructor (with sections), two students (with at least one enrollment).
3. **Short report** (5–7 pages): screenshots; final-grade weighting rule; how roles & maintenance are enforced; table lists for both DBs; extras added.
4. **Testing pack:** test plan (see §) and small test dataset; one-page test summary.
5. **Diagrams:** use-case lists; “things” sketch (relations); 2–3 flow sketches (enroll, grade entry, maintenance toggle).
6. **Demo video** (5–8 minutes): student flow, instructor flow, admin flow incl. maintenance.

9. Suggested 8-week plan

W1: Decide data fields & screens. Draw simple diagrams. Prototype a window.

W2: Create both DBs and connect. Seed a few users (with hashed passwords).

W3: Build login and dashboards; role-aware menus.

W4: Student flows (catalog, register/drop, timetable).

W5: Instructor flows (gradebook, final grade).

W6: Admin flows (users, courses, sections, assign instructor).

W7: Maintenance mode + exports (CSV/PDF) + polish messages/validation.

W8: Full test pass, screenshots, final fixes, demo recording.

10. Testing and evaluation

A. Environment for checks

Use the provided sample accounts: `admin1` (Admin), `inst1` (Instructor), `stu1, stu2` (Students).

Use your seed data.

B. Acceptance tests (must pass)

Each step should display the expected result in the UI.

Login & roles

Wrong password is rejected; shows "incorrect username or password."

After login, the dashboard matches the role (student/instructor/admin).

Student

See catalog with code/title/credits/capacity/instructor.

Register in a section with free seats → success and appears in "My Registrations" and timetable.

Try to register the *same* section again → blocked with a clear message.

Try to register in a *full* section → blocked with "Section full."

Drop before deadline → success; appears removed.

View grades for registered courses and sections.

Download transcript (CSV or PDF) listing completed courses/grades.

Instructor

See only their own sections.

Enter scores (quiz/midterm/end-sem) → saved.

Compute final grade using the rule in the report → shows final values.

Try to edit a section they do not teach → blocked with “Not your section.”

Admin

Create a new student user (username+role in Auth DB; student profile in ERP DB).

Create a course and a section; assign instructor.

Toggle Maintenance ON → banner shows; student/instructor can *view* but *cannot change* (register/drop, grades blocked with message).

Toggle Maintenance OFF → normal behavior returns.

Password & Auth separation

Password *hash* exists in Auth DB (not the real password).

ERP DB does not contain passwords.

Login uses Auth DB, then loads student/instructor profile from ERP DB via the shared `user_id`.

Exports (pick at least one)

Transcript export (Student) or grade CSV export (Instructor) works and opens.

C. Edge & negative tests

Capacity cannot be negative or nonsensical.

Register/drop after the stated deadline → blocked with message.

Student cannot view or change another student’s data.

Instructor cannot grade students from another instructor’s section.

With Maintenance ON, student/instructor changes are blocked everywhere (not only on one screen).

D. Data integrity checks

Duplicate enrollments (same student+same section) are prevented.

Removing a section: either blocked when students are enrolled or clearly explained/documentated.

E. Security basics

Real passwords are never stored; only hashes.

A Change Password dialog exists (bonus).

After 5 wrong login attempts, show a warning or temporary lock (bonus).

Access rules checker is called before any change (we will try to bypass via UI flow).

F. UI/UX checks

- Buttons and labels are clear; errors are friendly.
- Tables for lists; sorting/ Itering is a plus.
- Long actions show “please wait” (even a simple dialog).

G. Performance sanity

- Catalog list of 100 courses opens quickly (a few seconds or less).
- App starts without long hangs or crashes.

H. Maintenance & (optional) backup/restore

- Maintenance toggle flips the settings flag and the UI shows a banner immediately.
- All student/instructor *writes* are blocked while ON.
- (Bonus) Backup/restore: trigger backup, change a row, restore, and see it revert.

I. What to hand in for testing

- One-page “How to run”: Java version, DB setup, two DB connection settings, default accounts.
- Seed scripts for both DBs (create tables + insert sample data).
- Test plan (2–4 pages): the acceptance tests above in your words; extra tests you added; which accounts/data to use.
- Test summary (1 page): which tests passed/failed; known issues.

11. Grading rubric (100 points + up to 10 bonus)

Category	Points
Functionality: student (10) + instructor (10) + admin (10)	30
Access rules & Maintenance (role enforcement 10, maintenance 5)	20
Authentication and student records separation & password safety (two DBs; hashes only)	10
Data design & integrity (sensible tables; prevent duplicates; validation)	10
UI/UX quality (clarity; messages; tables; no crashes)	10
Testing quality (plan+data 4, reproducible pass 6)	5
Documentation & Demo (report 7, video 3)	5
Code/Project organization (folders, naming)	10
Total	100
<i>Bonus</i> CSV import/export (+3); Change Password & lockout (+3); Notifications panel (+2); Backup/restore (+2)	+10

12. Academic integrity

Work within your assigned team. You may consult public documentation, but *write your own screens, flows, and table definitions*. Cite any inspiration. Direct copy of other teams' work or online solutions is not allowed. Kindly refer to IIITD's academic honesty policy.

13. Final tip

Keep the **roles** and **maintenance** rules in mind for any button that changes data. If a click changes data, ask: (1) Is the user allowed to do this? (2) Is maintenance OFF? If both are yes → proceed; otherwise, show a friendly message.

14. Suggested API packages (UI ↔ Services boundary)

To keep the app tidy, let the **UI call a small set of “API” packages**. These are just organized folders of easy-to-understand actions. No database code lives here; they simply coordinate requests and return clear results or errors.

`edu.univ.erp.api.auth` — login, logout, change password, “who am I” (current user + role). Talks to Auth DB via the auth package.

`edu.univ.erp.api.catalog` — list/search courses and sections for a term; show capacity & instructor.

`edu.univ.erp.api.student` — register/drop a section (with checks), view timetable, grades, download transcript.

`edu.univ.erp.api.instructor` — see “my sections”, enter scores for assessments, compute final grade, view simple stats, export grade CSV.

`edu.univ.erp.api.admin` — add users (via Auth DB), add students/instructors (ERP DB profiles), create/edit courses and sections, assign instructor, toggle maintenance.

`edu.univ.erp.api.reports` — class lists (CSV), transcript export (CSV/PDF), quick summaries (averages).

`edu.univ.erp.api.maintenance` — read/write the maintenance flag; provide a quick “is-ReadOnlyNow?” check for the UI.

`edu.univ.erp.api.common` — shared things all APIs can reuse: standard success/error message shapes; simple pagination info for long lists.

`edu.univ.erp.api.types` — simple request/response *shapes* (fields only) used by multiple APIs (e.g., a “CourseRow” or “SectionRow” listing code, title, credits, capacity, instructor name).

How to use these: The UI panels ask these APIs to “do a thing” or “give a list”. The API validates the request and then calls the service layer. The API *never* talks to the database directly, and it returns clear results: either the data you asked for or a friendly error (e.g., “Section full”, “Not your section”, “Maintenance is ON”). Keep names simple and descriptive; avoid long or clever names.

15. Suggested real JAVA packages that could be used

Below are practical, widely used options students may choose from. Versions are intentionally omitted; pick current stable releases.

UI (Swing ecosystem)

Swing (JDK built-in) — core UI components (`javax.swing.*`).

FlatLaf (`com.formdev:flatlaf`) — modern Look & Feel for a cleaner desktop appearance.

MigLayout (`com.miglayout:miglayout-swing`) — simple, flexible layout manager for tidy forms.

LGoodDatePicker (`com.github.lgooddatepicker:LGoodDatePicker`) — ready-made date pickers using `java.time`.

JFreeChart (`org.jfree:jfreechart`) — basic charts for class averages or score distributions (optional).

Database connectivity & pooling

JDBC (JDK built-in) — standard database API (`java.sql`).

MySQL Connector/J (`mysql:mysql-connector-j`) or
MariaDB (`org.mariadb.jdbc:mariadb-java-client`).

HikariCP (`com.zaxxer:HikariCP`) — lightweight connection pool.

(Optional) **Flyway** (`org.flywaydb:flyway-core`) or **Liquibase** (`org.liquibase:liquibase-core`) — schema migrations.

Password hashing (Auth DB, “shadow” style)

jBCrypt (`org.mindrot:jbcrypt`) — straightforward bcrypt hashing and verification.

or **Password4j** (`com.password4j:password4j`) — supports bcrypt/argon2/scrypt with simple APIs.

(Advanced) **Argon2 JVM** (`de.mkammerer:argon2-jvm`) — direct Argon2 hashing.

Tips never store plaintext passwords; store only hashes. Use per-user salts (bcrypt/argon2 manage this). Provide a “Change Password” dialog.

CSV/PDF/Excel exports

OpenCSV (`com.opencsv:opencsv`) or **Apache Commons CSV** (`org.apache.commons:commons-csv`) for CSV grade sheets/transcripts.

OpenPDF (`com.github.librepdf:openpdf`) or **Apache PDFBox** (`org.apache.pdfbox:pdfbox`) for simple PDF exports.

(Optional) **Apache POI** (`org.apache.poi:poi-ooxml`) for Excel files if desired.

Logging & configuration

SLF4J API (`org.slf4j:slf4j-api`) with **Logback** (`ch.qos.logback:logback-classic`) for logging; or use JDK `java.util.logging`.

Typesafe Configuration (`com.typesafe:config`) (optional) for external `application.conf`; otherwise, use `java.util.Properties`.

Testing

JUnit 5 (`org.junit.jupiter:junit-jupiter`) — unit and service tests.

Mockito (`org.mockito:mockito-core`) — mocking database/services in tests (optional).

Hamcrest (`org.hamcrest:hamcrest`) — readable assertions (optional).

Parsing/JSON (optional)

Jackson (`com.fasterxml.jackson.core:jackson-databind`) or **Gson** (`com.google.code.gson:gson`) for simple JSON (if needed).

Backup helpers (optional)

Use **mysqldump** / **mysql** CLI via Java's `ProcessBuilder` to implement a simple backup/restore button with a progress dialog.

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