UD CISC New Undergrad Info

August 18, 2009

Welcome to the Department!

We hope that you'll learn a lot and have some fun over the next four years. Your most important resources will be your faculty advisor, UDSIS, and our Departmental web pages at http://www.cis.udel.edu/undergraduate/

Departmental Majors

- **B.A. Computer Science:** Breadth of a liberal arts education with a technical focus in computer science. More breadth requirements including foreign language; fewer technical requirements.
- **B.S. Computer Science:** Strong technical education in computer systems, software development, computational applications, and theory of computation. Includes a student-planned four-course "concentration". Most popular major. ***Note big changes happened in 2008—make sure you follow the new program!***
- **B.S. Information Systems:** Prepares students to apply expertise in computer science to solve business problems. Includes courses from College of Business.

Look up your advisor & progress report on UDSIS
http://www.udel.edu/udsis-student

Advising

- If you can't make office hours, please email or call—"Just showing up" is usually a bad idea. If you email, please use a descriptive Subject line. If you call, please speak your number *s l o w l y*. Most of us would prefer email unless it's urgent.
- Bring EVERYTHING needed with you to your appointment. Your advisor will never have any blank forms (they are at the Department Main Office in Smith Hall 101 or Student Services). Having your UDSIS progress report is a good idea too.
- If you are signing up for classes, please work out your schedule as much as possible beforehand.
- ***Get exceptions in writing.*** If your advisor approves some deviation from the program, make sure that they enter an "advisor note" in UDSIS and email a copy to you too (keep it safe!). What if your advisor is on sabbatical when you go to graduate??!!
- See your advisor often. Keep track of your progress on UDSIS. ***Especially for B.S. Comp. Sci which changed in 2008...*** don't believe everything seniors tell you!

B.S. Comp Sci Concentrations

The BSCS concentration is a way to explore the relation between CS and some other area of interest. A concentration is simply 4 advanced courses that you and your advisor think fit coherently as part of a BS CS degree. "Advanced" usually means 300-level or above, or with prerequisites, but exceptions can be made. Courses do NOT have to be in Comp. Sci.

Concentrations can be used to support Double Majors, or Minors in other fields. Some Minors, such as the Computational Biology Minor offered by the Department of Biology, are specifically designed to be taken by CS students. A list of example concentrations can be found on the web site.

Advice on Choosing Courses

1. Realize that many Group A & B courses will ***ALSO*** count as fulfilling your Multicultural Requirement. Kill two birds with one stone.

2. Taking the ENGL 312 or 410 req. ***after*** Junior status will cover your Junior Writing Requirement. ***Make sure to take the correct section!***

3. ***Take CPEG 202 Spring semester, Sophomore year.*** Offered in Spring Only!!

4. ***Required courses CISC 303 and 320 are*** **SPRING ONLY!** [take Soph or Junior year]

5. ***Required course CISC 360 is*** **FALL ONLY!** [take Fall Junior Year]

6. Use your A/B/C breadth and science/math courses to set up your concentration. For example: CogSci, Psych, Ling, Econ, etc. To do a Bioinformatics Minor you need Chem as your Lab Science and BISC 207 as your extra Science.

7. Choose your extra Math/Science with care: MATH 243/349 if you like graphics, CISC 304 if you like Databases, Artificial Intelligence (think computer games), or Software Engineering; BISC 401 for Bioinformatics. [See our website]

8. INSY students should consider ECON 100, or the sequence ECON 151/152 for your Group C Breadth. This will allow you to take BUAD 301 [Intro to Marketing] instead of FINC 311.

Undergraduate Research

Our CS Department is a *research* department—that means that almost all regular faculty carry out current research programs. Getting involved can be a great way to get more hands-on experience in an area you are interested in, or a great head-start (or heads-up) towards a possible graduate degree.

Most undergrads won't be prepared to help out in a research program until after their sophomore year. Students work either for pay or credit. You can either talk to faculty that you know, or check out the information at the Undergraduate Research Office http://www.urp.udel.edu/ under "Faculty Projects".

Job Experience

More than many other majors, CS majors have many opportunities for getting job experience in their field, because computing has become ingrained in almost every human endeavor. Conversely, potential employers will look for relevant experience on your resumé. Opportunities abound including the University, paid jobs at private companies, and volunteer work for non-profits. Faculty post jobs on the CISC front webpage. The Career Services Center can help, and often runs summer job fairs for science & engineering majors. Don't downplay the importance of good grades in your early CS/Math courses for landing those early jobs. http://www.udel.edu/CSC/

ACM

The Association for Computing Machinery is the major professional association for Computer Scientists. We have a social, active chapter here at UD. Join the National ACM (at a huge discount) to receive a student magazine (new hot topics and career advice), and access to many online books and technical training courses.
Local Chapter: http://www.udacm.org/
National: http://www.acm.org/