

Department of Computer Science

College of Arts and Sciences

Faculty

G. Jan Wilms (1992). Professor of Computer Science and Department Chair. B.A., Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; M.A. (English), University of Mississippi; M.S. (Computer Science), University of Mississippi; Ph.D. (Computer Science), Mississippi State University.

Stephanie Edge (1996). Associate Professor of Computer Science. A.S., Middle Georgia College; B.S., West Georgia College; M.S., Georgia State University; M.Div., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

James Kirk (2001). Associate Professor of Computer Science. B.M., Union University; M.M. and M.A., Indiana University; Ph.D., University of Louisville.

Haifei Li (2004). Assistant Professor of Computer Science. B.E., Xi'an Jiaotong University; M.S. and Ph.D., University of Florida.

Student Awards

A **Departmental Award** is given to the senior who places first in the Major Field Test for Computer Science as partial fulfillment of 498.

First Year Programming Award is awarded to a computer science student by the Department of Computer Science. A student is selected for excellence and expertise in first year programming courses.

Curriculum

The department offers four plans of study: Computer Science major, Digital Media Studies major, Computer Science minor, and Computer Information Systems minor.

Upon completion of the Computer Science Major, the student will have an understanding of and an appreciation for the interrelation of the main areas of study in Computer Science. The major provides a solid foundation of the concepts while emphasizing practical application; therefore, the graduate will be able to continue study in Computer Science at the graduate level or enter the job market.

The Digital Media Studies major is an interdisciplinary program joining Art, Communication Arts, and Computer Science. Its purpose is to produce a student aesthetically, theoretically, and technologically trained and capable of excellence in the relatively new area of the design, production, and implementation of digital communications media. Included are such areas as web page design, digital visual and aural communications strategies and theory, interactive media design, media programming, digital presentation techniques, and technological advances in digital communications.

The Computer Science Minor is intended for students interested primarily in pursuing a career in computer science or a related field immediately upon graduation.

The Computer Information Systems Minor will provide the student with a general understanding of analysis, design, and implementation of applications via third- and fourth-generation programming languages and pre-written packages. This minor is intended for the student expecting to use computers in a job-supportive mode.

Neither CSC 105 nor 245 is applicable to any major/minor in the department.

I. Major in Computer Science—41 hours

A. Required: CSC 115, 125, 205, 220, 235, 255, 260, 311, 321, 365, 425, 455, 498.

B. Select one: CSC 335, 360, 395, 411, 465, 485.

C. Prerequisites: MAT 205, 211-2, 315.

II. Digital Media Studies Major

A. Core requirements for all emphases—39 hours

1. ART 120, 221, 231, 345.

2. COM 220, 320, 365, 419.

3. CSC 115, 321, 360, 365.

4. Digital Media Studies Seminar 490.

B. Computer Science Emphasis requirements—23 hours

1. CSC 125, 220, 235, 255, 335, 498.

2. Select two courses: CSC 395, 411, 425, 455.

3. Prerequisite: MAT 205.

C. Art Emphasis—(28 hours) and Communication Arts Emphasis (24 hours)

See the respective departments for details.

III. Minor in Computer Science—21 hours

- A. Required: CSC 115, 125, 220, 235, 260, 311.
- B. One additional upper level CSC course other than 490 or 498.
- C. Prerequisite: MAT 205.

IV. Minor in Computer Information Systems—21 hours

- A. Required: CSC 115, 125, 235.
- B. Select 4: CSC 321, 360, 365, 395, 411.

Assessment of Majors

All senior computer science majors must take the Major Field Test in computer science as one requirement for CSC 498 (see below).

Student Organizations

The ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) Student Chapter is composed of students who are interested in today's world of computing. The club promotes an increased knowledge of the science, design, development, construction, languages, and applications of modern computing machinery. It provides a means of communication between persons interested in computing machinery and their applications.

Course Offerings in Computer Science (CSC)

() Hours Credit

105. Survey of Microcomputing Applications (3)

An introduction, for the non major/minor, to computers and their applications. Includes computer and information literacy, but the main emphasis is on competency with software through hands-on practice. Cannot be taken for credit after 115.*

115. Computer Science: Introduction & Overview (3)

Introduction exposing majors/minors to the breadth and interrelationships of courses in the field and empowering others for a continuous exploration of today's technical society. A language-independent overview of hardware and software with emphasis on problem solving and algorithm development. Cannot be taken for credit after 105 without departmental approval.*

*Either 105 or 115 apply to the B.S. specific core, but not both.

125. Computer Science I: Programming in Java (4)

Prerequisite: CSC 115.

Basic concepts of problem solving, algorithm design and analysis, abstract data types, and program structures. GUI development will be introduced and the object-oriented programming paradigm will be emphasized. Students will design, implement, debug, test, and document programs for various applications.

205. Computer Science II: Algorithms & Data Structures (3)

Prerequisites: CSC 125, MAT 205. Pre-or Corequisite: MAT 212.

A study of the complexity of algorithms and advanced data structures, including trees and graphs. Tools for analyzing the efficiency and design of algorithms, including recurrence, divide-and-conquer, dynamic programming, and greedy algorithms.

220. Computer Repair and Maintenance (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 115.

A hands-on approach to competence in configuring, installing, diagnosing, repairing, upgrading, and maintaining microcomputers and associated technologies. The course covers both core hardware and OS technologies.

235. Computer Ethics (2)

Major social and ethical issues in computers and the Internet, including impact of computers on society and the computer professional's code of ethics.

245. FORTRAN (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 115 and MAT 211.

Introduces the procedural programming using FORTRAN. Emphasis will be given to scientific applications.

255. Programming in C (3)

Prerequisites: CSC 115.

Introduces the procedural programming paradigm using ANSI C.

260. Digital Systems (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 125, CSC 220, and MAT 205.

Binary codes, Boolean algebra, combinational logic design, flip-flops, counters, synchronous sequential logic, programmable logic devices, MSI logic devices, adder circuits.

311. Computer Architecture (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 260.

Introduction to the architecture of stored-program digital computer systems including processor and external device structures and operation, machine operations and instructions, and assembly language concepts and programming.

321. Database Management Systems (3)

Prerequisites: CSC 115 and Junior standing.

Hands-on approach to the design of databases: conceptual design using E-R model and logical design using the relational model and database programming using SQL. The architecture of database application is discussed including the 3-tiered model and web access. Queries, forms, reports and application will be studied by implementing them in a client-server environment.

335. Computer Graphics (3)

Prerequisites: CSC 255; Recommended prerequisite: MAT 315.

An investigation of a wide range of computer graphics via programming techniques. Topics include graphic display theory, graphic techniques, applications, and hardware.

360. Web Building & Site Management (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 115. Pre-or Corequisite: CSC 321; Recommended Pre: CSC 125.

Fundamentals of web site development and management, graphical web-building tools, multi-level site planning and construction, navigation schemes, client- and server-side scripting, basic interactivity, information organization, and the delivery of basic multimedia content.

365. Data Communications and Networking (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 115 and Junior standing.

Introduction to hardware and software components of computer data communications and networking. Emphasis is on practical, hands-on set-up and administration of a LAN, peer-to-peer networking, and the TCP/IP protocol. Topics include routing, shared file and application access, remote printing, and security.

411. Systems Analysis (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 321.

Process of designing computer-based systems for business applications, tools and techniques of systems development and management; advantages and disadvantages of conversion from existing to new systems will be discussed.

425. Operating Systems (3)

Prerequisites: CSC 220, 255 and 365. Recommended prerequisite: CSC 311.

Systems resource management: brief historical overview and case studies; discussion of multi-tasking and related concepts of scheduling, interprocess communication, and mutual exclusion/deadlock; overview of file management and memory management. Theory is augmented by detailed study of implementation of an existing operating system.

455. Programming Languages (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 255.

Issues in programming language design, specification, and implementation: overview and comparison of major contemporary languages; analysis of translation process with focus on context-free grammars; and investigation of data representation, binding, sequence control, logic and object oriented paradigms. Theory is augmented by implementation of a tokenizer and parser for a simple language.

465. Formal Language (3)

Prerequisites: CSC 255 and MAT 315. Recommended prerequisite: CSC 455.

Theoretical foundations of computer science including formal languages and automata, parsing of context-free languages, Turing machines, computability, and complexity.

485. Internship in Computer Science (3)

Prerequisite: CSC 205, 220, 235 and one of: 321, 360, 365.

Selected students are assigned as interns to obtain supervised practical work related to the CS discipline at a business or non-profit organization.

490. Digital Media Studies Senior Seminar (3)

Prerequisite: Taken in Senior Year. Reciprocal credit: ART/COM 490.

Capstone course for DMS majors to bring the emphases together for exposure to the variety of fields of digital media and associated workplace cultures. Includes case studies, guest speakers, field trips, and an interdisciplinary group project culminating in the production of a computer-based portfolio for job search.

498. Computer Science Seminar (2)

Prerequisite: 20 hours of CSC and taken in Senior Year.

The setting for administering the Major Field Test and addressing topics where the department perceives need for additional instruction. Students will synthesize previously learned concepts by developing and implementing a solution to a real-world programming problem. Each project will culminate in a report presented at a regional conference. The course may be modified at the discretion of the department.

179-279-379-479. External Domestic Study Programs (1-3) As Needed

All courses and their applications must be defined and approved prior to registering.

180-280-380-480. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

195-6-7. Special Studies (1-4)**295-6-7. Special Studies (1-4)**

Lower-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

395-6-7. Special Studies (1-4)

Upper-level group studies which do not appear in the regular departmental offerings.

495-6-7. Independent Study (1-4)

Individual research under the guidance of a faculty member(s).

499. Seminar (1-3)

To be used at the discretion of the department for majors only.