

Computer Science Changes
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We are adding two new courses:

CSci 1133 - Introduction to Computing and Programming Concepts
CSci 1913 - Introduction to Algorithms, Data Structures, and Program Development

and an honors version of an existing course:

Csci 4041H Algorithms and Data Structures

The two new courses are part of changes we are planning for the entry courses in our major. The main changes we are planning are as follows:

- The new course CSci 1133 will become the main entry point in Computer Science. It is designed to attract a broader set of students to our major. The course will be a rigorous introduction to the discipline but will be focused on building interesting applications, so students will be exposed to the richness of the computing field.
- We will create multiple entry points into our major, as opposed to the single one we currently have. This is to enable different types of students and students with different levels of programming knowledge to make more rapid progress in the major. Specifically, CSci 1103 (Intro to Java) and CSci 1113 (Intro to C/C++) will count towards the major. The new course CSci 1913 will be the second course in the major for students coming from this entry path, replacing for them CSci 1902. After the first two courses, the students will have an equivalent level of knowledge to the ones coming through the main entry path and will take the same courses.

I have talked with Ben Sharpe and Luc Nelson about our proposed changes, so they are aware of our plans and will help with the transition plan and advising. The remaining changes to our degree programs are being finalized by the curriculum committee this semester, but we hope to be able to start offering these new courses in Fall 2013.

The last new class is the honors version of CSci 4041. It is part of our efforts to offer more in depth and more personalized courses to the honors students. CSci 4041 is one of the central courses for computer science majors but it is also important for other students who want to learn some core material in computing.

The remaining changes are minor:

- a new description for CSci 1103 (Intro to Java) to make the class is a more rigorous introduction to computing
- an addition to the prerequisites for CSci 1113 to include honors calculus
- a change in the prerequisites of CSci 5161 (Intro to Compilers) to better reflect the material students need to know