

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Introduced by: Department of Computer Science

Date: May 5, 2008

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

IT IS HEREBY PROPOSED THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED:

1. That the attached Computer Science Departmental Honors Program be approved by the University Senate.
2. That this proposal be forwarded to the Interim President George M. Philip for approval.
3. That this program become effective for students admitted to the University for Fall 2008.

Rationale:

Revision of the Disciplinary Honor's Program in Computer Science. The revision restricts the program to our BS majors, allows AP to replace beginning courses, suggests taking honors calculus, allows more overlap with required credits for the major and for the BS/MS program, invites honors study to be combined with BS/MS study, and clarifies the admission procedures and the benefits of the honor's program. It excludes grades in possibly very challenging graduate courses which are not used for the B.S. from the honor's GPA calculation.

Bulletin Description:

The Computer Science Departmental Honors program is an opportunity for qualified students to undertake research or innovative development projects at the undergraduate level, under individualized guidance of computer science faculty, and gain recognition by presenting their accomplishments in a public forum and by a transcript designation. The honors seminars and projects are often conducted within research groups comprised of computer science and interdisciplinary faculty, graduate students and other undergraduates.

Students are encouraged to enroll in the Combined BS/MS Program together with this honors program. Combined BS/MS students can substitute some graduate courses for their undergraduate requirements. They might then get an Albany Masters of Science degree sooner by including up to 12 credits from those graduate

courses. The honors and beginning graduate study together might also provide excellent preparation for admission to a national research internship program or a Computer Science Ph.D. program.

Eligibility: To be eligible for admission to the honors program in Computer Science, a student must have declared one of the Bachelor of Science major programs in Computer Science; must have completed the following courses with a GPA of at least 3.5: Csi 201 (or AP), Csi 210, Csi 310 (or a 5 in the CS-AP AB exam), Csi 333, and preferably Mat 118 and Mat 119 although Mat 111 or Mat 112, and Mat 113 are acceptable; have an overall GPA of at least 3.25; and have permission from a prospective faculty honor's supervisor for a research specialization area. Prospective honors students must identify and consult a prospective supervisor prior to honors admission, and to request admission during the semester when they will complete the above courses so admission may be determined when all the required grades are in and the proposed area is evaluated.

Requirements:

- 1.** All the requirements for the chosen Bachelor of Science major program must be completed with one or more elective courses chosen in consultation with the faculty to develop rigorous mastery in a disciplinary specialization. These courses may be either part of or in addition to the major, a minor, a second major or graduate requirements. Admitted departmental honor's students in the 73 credit Bachelor of Science Combined Major and Minor in Computer Science may use ICSI487 for one of the three Computer Science electives in that program. Students in the 66 credit Computer Science and Applied Mathematics program must take its two electives in addition to ICSI487.
- 2.** Three credits of Honors Seminar (ICSI487): As part of this course, students will do independent study in preparation for research or innovative development projects under the supervision of a faculty member, and to present a colloquium on the topic. See the catalog description.
- 3.** At least three credits of honors or graduate project work (ICSI488Z and/or ICSI68x and/or ICSI699): Students will be required to pursue research or innovative development under the supervision of a faculty member and submit a final report describing their original work and its background. The courses necessarily have significant writing components. The student will be required to present a public seminar on the results when the project is completed. See the catalog descriptions.
- 4.** A GPA of at least 3.5 in the Computer Science courses that go towards the B.S. major must be maintained to continue in the honors program and graduate with an honors major. The faculty supervisor must also certify to the department that the student completed and presented the project results satisfactorily.

