

Fall 2011 Computer Science Advising Newsletter

Five Year CS/MS Program

CS majors can apply for admission to the 5th-year graduate program in Digital Forensics. This option allows students to complete a Master of Science degree with a concentration in Digital Forensics with one extra year of study after finishing the BS degree. In order to qualify, you must be on track to complete 99 credit hours by the end of your junior year and a GPA of 3.0 or more. Applications are due before March 31st of the junior years, so students need to start planning for this program as sophomores. For more information, visit <http://www.cs.jmu.edu/forensics/combinedprogram.html> or contact Florian Buchholz, Graduate Director.

Seniors—Apply to Graduate Now!

Seniors planning to graduate in May 2011 must submit an application by October 15th, so you only have until the end of this week to get this done if you haven't already. Start the process by picking up an application packet from Carole Ritchie in CS/ISAT 219B. You must print and fill in a form from the CS web page, print your transcript, and fill out the application itself, see your advisor, and return the signed application packet to Ms. Ritchie by October 15th.

Freshman Advising

Freshmen, you will be registering on your own for the first time beginning October 31st, and you need to see Ms. Harris to determine what to take in the spring. Professor Harris will have a group advising session primarily for CS freshman but also for undeclared students or students who do not yet have a CS advisor on Wednesday October 19 from 5:30 to 6:30 in ISAT/CS 236. The meeting will focus on next semester's classes, the Math placement exam, and the process of registering for classes including requesting overrides. For students who cannot attend this session or for those who need more individual help, office hours to ask advising questions will be available during the two to three weeks following this meeting.

Dropping Courses

The last day to drop a class with a W grade is Thursday, October 27th. After this date, you may only receive a WP or a WF under extraordinary circumstances at the discretion of the professor.

Advising Appointments

The CS advising team wants to see every student this semester:

Freshmen—Please attend the group advising session on Wednesday, October 20th from 3:30 to 4:30 in CS/ISAT 236. If you need to see Ms. Harris individually, you can do so afterwards.

Sophomores and Juniors—Registration for spring semester begins October 31st, so you need to discuss your plans for next semester (and thereafter) with your advisor to make

sure that you are on track to graduate on time. See Dr. Buchholz if you are interested in the five-year program.

Seniors—You need to see your advisor to get your application to graduate signed. At this time any problems can be dealt with as well.

If you are not sure who your advisor is, you can find out on ecampus.

Spring Schedule

The spring schedule for CS courses is attached with this newsletter. You will note that there are several electives, including CS 480 Topics in Computer Science. The topic of CS 480 is Logic in Computer Science. This course will begin with a review of propositional and first-order logic, consider some algorithms for checking validity, and then survey the use of logic for model-checking to verify programs, and proofs of program correctness to verify programs. Finally, some systems of modal logic will be considered, along with their use in multi-agent systems. The prerequisite for any logic or discrete mathematics course, and the course is open to all majors.

Synopsis: Dates and Deadlines

Now to October 31st—Sophomore, juniors, and seniors see their advisors

October 15th—Applications to graduate in May 2012 due

October 20th—Freshman advising session, 3:30-4:30 pm, ISAT/CS 236

October 27th—Last day to drop a class with a W

October 31st—Spring semester registration begins