Registering for Classes

Registering for Classes - Information for CS, Math & CS, Stats & CS, and all "CS + X" (CS + Anthro, CS + Astro, CS + Chem, and CS + Linguistics) Majors

Early registration for classes for each term occurs in the latter part of the previous term: Students register for spring semester classes starting the previous November; students register for summer and fall classes starting the previous April. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions and information about registration and advising:

Timeframe

Q: When does registration begin?
A: To see how registration times are determined check this page on the Office of the Registrar's website.

Q: That's great, but when do I get to register?!?
A: You should receive an email about this from the Office of the Registrar around the middle of each spring and fall term (which reminds me, READ YOUR EMAIL!). Following the instructions in the email, you'll be able to look for your Time Ticket (earliest registration time) on Enterprise Student Self Service. Once the time stated on your time ticket comes up, you can start registering for your courses.

Q: What happens if I wait until later – a few weeks or months after my time ticket – to register? It's not a big deal, is it?
A: Only if you actually want to get into the classes that you need. We've noticed that some important CS courses have been filling up the last few semesters, so we're trying to help you by restricting registration in many of our core courses (CS 173, CS 210, CS 233, CS 241, CS 242, CS 357, CS 374 and most 400-level CS electives) to certain majors. We lift the restrictions from most of those courses the Monday after early registration ends. So if you haven't registered by then and find that you can't get into the class you need, we're not going to be too sympathetic.

Putting together your Schedule

Information about requirements

Q: How can I figure out which courses I should register for next semester?
A: Here are some basic guidelines for putting together your schedule:

Requirements fall into three general categories:

1. Major requirements: courses required for your specific major - these are spelled out for each CS-related major on this CS undergraduate programs wiki page.
2. General education requirements: to make sure your degree program is well-rounded - see the Engineering advising wiki for Engineering gen eds and the LAS website for LAS-specific gen eds.
3. Free electives: additional coursework to bring your credit hours up to the required minimum for graduation - Engineering students be sure to check the Engineering free electives wiki page for courses that do not count.

You can follow your progress through your requirements using two main tools:

1. Check the requirements flowchart for your major for the suggested order in which major requirements should be taken.
2. See what requirements you have completed/are completing and have left to complete by checking your degree audit. You can access your degree audit on the web-based DARS system. The Registrar's Office website has a convenient link to the DARS portal.

Take note of recent changes!

- See the last Q & A above about the restrictions we're placing on registration and the need to register as soon as you can after your earliest registration time comes up.
- CS 373 and CS 473 are being combined into a new course that will eventually be CS 374. That course currently is being offered as a CS 498 Special Topics course, CS 498 section BL1 Algorithms and Models of Comp. Students who have taken CS 373 but not CS 473 should contact undergrad@cs.illinois.edu.
- The old technical track structure is being phased out for most students who began Fall 2013 or later. The Math Track and CSE (Computational Science and Engineering) Track will no longer exist. The CS Track has been revised.
Q: My DARS looks incomplete/incorrect. What can I do about it?
A: Email undergrad@cs.illinois.edu. If the issue is your technical track not showing up (for CS majors in Engineering), first see the note above about recent changes in regards to the technical tracks. If you began before Fall 2013 and need to "declare" your technical track, send Steve Herzog an email with the following information:

- Name:
- UIN:
- Netid:
- Technical Track:

CS majors who still fall under the "old" technical track requirements can still follow the requirements for each track here: CS track, CSE track and Math track.

If you have taken a course that you think should satisfy a requirement but is not, email undergrad@cs.illinois.edu.

If your situation is not so straightforward or if you're really struggling in your courses this fall, you should talk to your advisor, Steve Herzog or Professor Pitt or Heather Zike before you register for your courses.

Caution! When drawing up your schedule, pay close attention to course offering patterns! Do not overload yourself!

Some courses are offered fall only or spring only, so if you're within 2 or fewer semesters of graduating (December 2015 or earlier), plan out the rest of your courses carefully so you don't wind up needing a course that isn't offered the semester you intend to graduate. We anticipate this might be a problem particularly for CS in Engineering majors who plan on completing the two-course Software Engineering or Senior Project sequence and/or certain specializations. This also applies to Math & CS and Stats & CS majors looking to complete certain required courses at the junior and senior levels.

Be careful not to overload yourself! If you're struggling, that might be a sign that you need to take fewer hours or fewer technical hours. If you're wondering if your proposed course schedule is manageable, ask the peer advisors – and don't be afraid to get more than one opinion.

Information about individual courses

If you want information about individual courses, here are critical sources of information that students often overlook:

- The new Course Explorer, accessible via my.illinois.edu.
- The university course information suite with links to the Course Catalog which lists every single course each department possesses and the online Class Schedule, which lists offered for a specific term.
- Some courses have websites accessible from the Engineering wiki.

Be sure to check out new courses and special topics courses (see below).

Seeking Advice

Q: So who is my advisor?
A: If you have ANY questions about requirements, policies and procedures you can talk to an academic advisor (Steve Herzog or Heather Zike, the academic advisors for Computer Science or Professor Pitt, the Director of Undergraduate Studies). You can email all three (undergrad@illinois.edu) or stop by the Academic Office in 1210 Siebel Center. Steve and Heather are usually in during walk-in hours (9:30-11:45 am and 1-4:30 pm), but you can check to make sure - the walk-in hours are usually posted right by the door to the Academic Office.

Q: Am I required to meet with an advisor before I register?
A: Yes, during the spring semester you are required to meet with your faculty mentor (see below for more info). If you have questions about scheduling, requirements and procedures, though, you should see an advisor in the Academic Office or email undergrad@cs.illinois.edu.

Faculty Mentors

All CS undergrads are assigned a faculty mentor (new students receive their assignments usually in their first spring semester). Typically, all undergraduates must meet with their faculty mentor by the beginning of April (early registration for summer and fall terms). If you have a question that a faculty member would be best equipped to answer, feel free to contact your mentor, or any professor you've met with before or have had a course with in a past semester. Or if you have a question about a certain area of computer science, you can find which faculty members specialize in that particular area. All of our faculty members are listed by research area and in alphabetical order on the CS website. You can find these listings, along with contact information for each faculty member, in the CS departmental faculty directory. To understand more about faculty mentors and the advising process, see How Advising Works in the Computer Science Department.

COMING SOON: A CS Advising Piazza!

Courses to Consider for Fall 2015
CS 498 Special Topics in CS courses

CS 498 Special Topics courses tend to be small classes, focused on a topic close to a faculty member's heart, and thus provide an excellent opportunity for a letter of recommendation and a future project or thesis. And you can use them to satisfy your 400-level CS elective requirements. Below is the current list of topics. For more information, including meeting times, course descriptions and prerequisites, see the CS 498 website on the university courses webpage.

CS 498 Special Topics Courses for Fall 2015 (others may be added):

- Computational Photography
- Socio-Computer Interaction
- Virtual Reality
- Digital Forensics I
- Machine Learning for Signal Processing
- Algorithms and Models of Comp (Note: This is the new CS 374 course, not a 400-level elective)
- Probability in Computer Science (NOTE: This course is designed to satisfy the MATH 461/STAT 400 requirement - students who use the course to satisfy this requirement may not use it as a 400-level CS elective for the CS Track).

Nearing Graduation? Here's Some Important Information!

For Students Graduating August or December 2015 (and those graduating in May 2016 should be thinking about this, too!):

- Check your DARS to make sure you know which requirements you have remaining and make sure that you can fit them in to your remaining semesters. For help, contact Steve Herzog or Heather Zike.
- Make sure you'll reach the required total hours minimum. See DARS for this, and remember that DARS includes in-progress courses - anything you're currently taking this semester and anything you've registered for next semester - in the total hours!
- Don't forget free electives! CS in Engineering majors need 128 total hours to graduate; all CS Dept undergrads in LAS need 120 hours. Just fulfilling your major requirements and gen eds will not be enough. Engineering majors be sure to check the Engineering advising wiki page on free electives to see which courses DO NOT count toward your total graduation hours.
- If you have any time conflicts among the remaining required courses, email the CS undergraduate advisors as soon as possible and let them know which courses are conflicting.
- Declare your intent to graduate. You should do this through Enterprise Student Self Service when you go to register for your Spring 2015 courses. Click on the tab "Graduation Information" and make sure the term is set at Summer or Fall 2015, then follow the instructions for declaring your intent to graduate.
- Review this website from the Office of the Registrar.