Early Registration and Advising Information for Fall (and Summer) 2011

Early registration for Fall and Summer 2011 courses is rapidly approaching.

Some students (Chancellors Scholars, James Scholars) will be registering as soon as April 4. That means you should be thinking about your classes for the fall- and beyond. In the meantime, here are some answers to frequently asked questions and information about registration and advising:

Important New Developments

The Requirement to Meet with Your Faculty Mentor

As a reminder, all current CS, Math & CS, and Stats & CS majors must meet with their faculty mentors before registration begins. Only seniors graduating in May and students currently studying abroad will be exempted. Please read carefully about the role of the faculty mentors, below.

Courses Filling Up - Register As Soon As You Can!

We have noticed that a lot of CS courses are filling up during early registration. In many cases we are restricting our courses to our own majors (and others for whom a particular course is required) but we will lift restrictions and release any remaining seats after early registration ends toward the beginning of May. That means that you should register as soon as you are able to do so. If you wait until after the end of early registration, we might not be able to help you get into courses you need!

Timeframe

Q: When does registration begin?
A: In general, registration for the Fall and Summer terms begins April 4. To see how registration times are determined check this page on the Registrar's website.

Q: That's great, but when do I get to register?! A: You should have received an email about this from the Office of the Registrar (which reminds me, READ YOUR EMAIL!). To find out your own, individual earliest registration time, look for your time ticket – available soon – on Enterprise Student Self Service. Once the time stated on your time ticket comes up, you can (and should!) start registering for your courses. Again, if you fail to register before we release seats to non-majors, we will likely not be able to help you get into classes that fill up.

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:

Check the requirements flowcharts for your major. They can be found on the CS undergraduate programs wiki here.

You can also follow your progress by checking your degree audit. You can access your degree audit on the web-based DARS system. The Registrar's Office has a convenient link to the DARS portal.

You can also check the CS website for a list of requirements for each of our programs.

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 before you register for your courses.

Caution! When creating your schedule, pay close attention to the following:

- Total Hours Requirements and Free Electives: For most students, completing the requirements for the major and the general education requirements is not enough to graduate. You will most likely need to complete some free electives to reach the minimum total credit hours required for graduation (128 for CS in Engineering, 120 for Math & CS or Stats & CS in LAS).
Information about individual courses

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

- The university course information suite with links to the Spring 2011 course schedule.
- Some courses have websites accessible from the CS departmental 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, the academic advisor for Computer Science or Professor Pitt, the Director of Undergraduate Programs). You can email both (undergrad@illinois.edu) or stop by the Academic Office in 1210 Siebel Center. Steve is usually in 9:30-11:45 am and 1:30-4:45 pm.

Q: Am I required to meet with an advisor before I register?
A: You are required to meet with your faculty mentor in order to be able to register for Fall (and Summer) 2011 courses.

Faculty Mentors

All CS, Math & CS and Stats & CS majors have been assigned a faculty mentor. Typically, all undergraduates must meet with their faculty mentor by the beginning of April (early registration for summer and fall terms). To understand more about faculty mentors and the advising process, see How advising works in the computer science department.

Peer Advising

Q(s): How difficult is CS ___? What can I expect from Professor ___? Should I take CS ___ with another course? What can I do to survive CS ___? Should I take Math 461 or 463? Is there a student organization that does ___? When should I study abroad? How do I get an internship? How can I get an apartment near Siebel Center next year?

A(s): If you have questions like these, you can direct them to the people best equipped to answer them - your peers! Fellow CS students have volunteered to answer emails.

You can find the list of peer advisors here.

If you are interested in becoming a peer advisor, please contact Steve Herzog.

You might also check out student reviews of CS courses (and submit your own) on Courseguide by IBANG

Special Topics Courses for Spring 2011

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 2011 (others may be added)

- Computational Photography
- Reasoning in AI.
- Socio-Computer Interaction
- Health Informatics
- Introduction to Natural Language Processing
- Networking Laboratory
- Planning Algorithms
- Run-time Specialization