Computer Science Major Eligibility Requirement

Approved by Admissions & Standards 2-22-17
Approved by University Senate 4-13-17

Effective beginning with students on the 2017-18 catalogs

Motion:

The following material will be added to section 3210 (Computer Science) of the Undergraduate Catalog:

Major Eligibility Requirements

Effective fall semester 2017, to be eligible for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and to enroll in major-level CSC courses (CSC 2720 Data Structures and all 3000- and 4000-level CSC courses), students must fulfill the following requirements:

- Complete the following courses with a grade of C or higher:
  - CSC 1301 (Principles of Computer Science I),
  - CSC 2510 (Theoretical Foundations of Computer Science) or MATH 2420 (Discrete Mathematics), and
  - either Math 1112, 1113, 2211, 2212, or 2215.
- Students must earn an average GPA of 2.5 across the three courses. The GPA will be calculated based on the first attempt at the courses designated above at Georgia State University. WFs count as an attempt. Ws do not count as an attempt. If a student has AP credit for any course designated above, the course will not be used in this GPA calculation, even if the student chooses to take the course.
- Transfer students who transfer these course(s) into Georgia State, may use the grades in the transferred course(s) to calculate the GPA or they may attempt them once at Georgia State. Course taken at Georgia State's Perimeter College count as first-attempts.

Once students are eligible to take in major-level Computer Science courses (CSC 2720 Data Structures and 3000- and 4000-level CSC courses), they remain eligible to take them as long as they are eligible to enroll at Georgia State University and satisfy other Computer Science program requirements. Students must meet any pre-requisites for the specific 3000- or 4000-level course.

This requirement applies to students entering or re-entering the university in fall 2017 or thereafter, or to students who choose to follow the Computer Science program requirements in the undergraduate catalog for 2017-18 or thereafter. Students who have selected the Computer Science B.S. major but have not yet fulfilled the major eligibility requirement will be designated as Pre-Computer Science majors.

Students in majors other than Computer Science including those minoring in Computer Science, may enroll in major-level CSC courses as long as they meet any pre-requisites for the specific course.

Rationale:

Computer Science seeks to adopt the major eligibility requirement described above to improve the likelihood of degree completion among its majors. The current six-year graduation rate for Computer Science majors who were first-time freshmen falls significantly below the university average (FA09 FTF cohort CSC: 48.6%; UNIV: 54.1%). Data indicate that there is a significant correlation between GPA in the courses designated above and degree completion in the Computer Science major. The motion enables the early identification and redirection of students unlikely to be successful as Computer Science majors.

Although not the primary driver of this initiative, introduction of a Computer Science major eligibility requirement will likely also ease enrollment pressures on the Computer Science department. The undergraduate major has seen dramatic growth in recent years as a result of our world's increasing dependence on technology and the consequent high-demand for graduates with the computer-related knowledge and skills. Over the past five years, the BS in Computer Science has added 857 majors (from 547 to 1,404), an increase of nearly 160%. The major eligibility requirement will help ensure that students who are unlikely to earn a CSC degree will not take seats away from those that are more likely candidates for degree completion.