PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COMPUTER SCIENCE ADMISSION SECTION IN THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES SECTION IN THE UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG 2016-2018

Type of Change
☑ Academic Change
☐ Degree Program Change (THECB form required)

Proposed classification
☑ Exclusive
☐ General
☐ Major

1. IF THE ANSWER TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IS YES, THE COLLEGE MUST CONSULT LINDA DICKENS, DIRECTOR OF ACCREDITATION AND ASSESSMENT, TO DETERMINE IF SACS-COC APPROVAL IS REQUIRED.
   - Is this a new degree program? Yes ☑ No ☒
   - Does the program offer courses that will be taught off campus? Yes ☑ No ☒
   - Will courses in this program be delivered electronically? Yes ☑ No ☒

2. EXPLAIN CHANGE TO DEGREE PROGRAM AND GIVE A DETAILED RATIONALE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL CHANGE:

1. Require students who do not meet entry-level requirements; appeal, and have their appeal approved, must make a B- or better in C S 429 to be allowed into a major sequence.
   Rationale: Students who appeal their decision to be removed from the major due to not meeting entry-level requirements need to demonstrate they can be successful in upper division courses. Faculty have decided that if a student who has struggled while in entry-level status shows they can make at least a B- in C S 429, then they should be able to perform well in upper division courses and be allowed to continue in the major sequence.

2. Once a student has been admitted to UT Austin, they may not take C S entry-level courses through other institutions and have them count toward their Computer Science entry-level GPA requirement or toward degree requirements for graduation purposes. All entry-level courses taken at must be completed in residence at this point.
   Rationale: Computer Science faculty feels that students need to take these requirements in residence in order to demonstrate they can be successful in the major. By taking entry-level classes in residence, students are better prepared to go into the major sequences.

3. Only two of the three entry-level courses (C S 312, C S 311 and C S 314) may be attempted more than once to meet entry-level requirements. A Q-drop (Q) or withdrawal (W) counts as an attempt. A third, and final attempt may be granted if the student documents non-academic issues within the same semester the course is taken and is given a non-academic Q drop.
   Rationale: Students are expected to show they can make progress toward the moving into the major sequence in a timely fashion. If students struggle early on in their entry-level courses, it historically means they cannot move through the more rigorous upper division courses.

4. Once admitted into a major sequence from entry-level, students who cannot complete core upper division Computer Science courses (C S 429, 439 or 331) with a C- or better within two attempts, can be moved to the Natural Sciences Undeclared major. A Q-drop (Q) or withdrawal (W) count as an attempt. A third and final attempt attempt may be granted if the student documents non-academic issues within the same semester the course is taken and is given a non-academic Q drop.
   Rationale: Students must show they can progress through the major in a timely manner. Having to retake required core upper division computer science courses show that the student will not be able to achieve this goal.

5. Option IV – 5 Year Integrated BS/MS Program: Application deadline for the Integrated 5-Year BS/MS Program is May 1st each spring semester
   Rationale: January 2nd was removed as it is no longer the deadline to apply to the 5-Year Integrated BS/MS Program.

6. Option IV – 5 Year Integrated BS/MS Program: C S 345 or 345H and 353 – are not a requirement for this degree
Rationale: C S 345 or 345H and 353 were left on as requirements by accident. They should have been removed in the 14-16 catalog as faculty do not want to require them for this degree option.

7. Option IV – 5 year Integrated BS/MS Program: Add C S 331 – Algorithms as a required course in order to apply for this Program.
Rationale: C S 331 is a required core C S course. All students should have this background before beginning eligible for the Program.

3. **THIS PROPOSAL INVOLVES (Please check all that apply)**
   - [x] Change in admission requirements (external or internal)
   - [ ] Courses in other colleges
   - [ ] Courses in proposer’s college that are frequently taken by students in other colleges
   - [ ] Change in course sequencing for an existing program
   - [x] Courses that have to be added to the inventory
   - [ ] Course in the core curriculum
   - [ ] Change in course sequencing for an existing program
   - [ ] Requirements not explicit in the catalog language (e.g., lists of acceptable courses maintained by department office)

4. **SCOPE OF PROPOSED CHANGE**
   a. Does this proposal impact other colleges/schools? Yes [x] No [ ]
      If yes, then how? There should be fewer students admitted to the CS major with these changes in admissions requirements. The students who are not admitted will need to make other major choices.
   b. Do you anticipate a net change in the number of students in your college? Yes [x] No [ ]
      If yes, how many more (or fewer) students do you expect? A maximum of 25 students per year may be denied from the major, and would need to locate another major. These students will be distributed between the other majors in Natural Sciences and majors in other colleges.
   c. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from outside of your college taking classes in your college? Yes [x] No [ ]
      If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.
   d. Do you anticipate a net increase (or decrease) in the number of students from your college taking courses in other colleges? Yes [x] No [ ]
      If yes, please indicate the number of students and/or class seats involved.

If 4 a, b, c, or d was answered with yes, please answer the following questions. If the proposal has potential budgetary impacts for another college/school, such as requiring new sections or a non-negligible increase in the number of seats offered, at least one contact must be at the college-level.

   - How many students do you expect to be impacted? A maximum of 25 students per year may be denied from the major, and would need to locate another major. These students will be distributed between the other majors in Natural Sciences and majors in other colleges.

   Impacted schools must be contacted and their response(s) included:
   - Person communicated with:
   - Date of communication:
   - Response:

   e. Does this proposal involve changes to the core curriculum or other basic education requirements (42-hour core, signature courses, flags)? No. If yes, explain:
   If yes, undergraduate studies must be informed of the proposed changes and their response included:
   - Person communicated with:
   - Date of communication:
   - Response:

   f. Will this proposal change the number of hours required for degree completion? No. If yes, explain:
5. COLLEGE/SCHOOL APPROVAL PROCESS

Department approval date:
College approval date:
Dean approval date:

PROPOSED NEW CATALOG TEXT:

The Entry-Level Major

All new freshman and transfer students are admitted into the College of Natural Sciences in an entry-level major. After completing a specified set of entry-level mathematics and science courses required for the degree with a grade of at least C in each course, students are admitted to the major and option they plan to pursue unless the major or option has special admission-to-major requirements. The computer science entry-level major is restricted to students who are admitted to that major by the Office of Admissions. Students who wish to pursue computer science but who were not admitted to the entry-level major by the Office of Admissions must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 in residence at the University to transfer into the entry-level major. If a student completes transfer courses approved as substitutes for the entry-level courses, he or she may also count the grades of the approved substitutes toward the minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 for admission into the entry-level major. A student who is not admitted may submit an appeal to the department for consideration.

Admission-to-Major Requirements

The Major in Computer Science

Several programs are available to undergraduates who wish to major in computer science. Each program involves an admission process in addition to the student’s application for admission to the University. All students may apply to the University as entry-level computer science majors and later seek admission to one of the computer science programs as described in this section; those seeking admission to the Turing Scholars program may also apply to that program when they apply for admission to the University. Students who were not admitted to the entry-level major by the Office of Admissions must have a minimum overall grade point average of 2.50 in residence at the University to transfer into the entry-level major. A student who is not admitted may submit an appeal to the department for consideration.

To apply for admission to the Bachelor of Arts with a major in computer science, the Bachelor of Science and Arts with a major in computer science, the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, option I, and the Integrated Program are given below. Those for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, option II, Turing Scholars honors, and option III, computer science honors, are given in Academic Policies and Procedures.

Bachelor of Arts; the Bachelor of Science and Arts; and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Option I and V

To apply for admission to the Bachelor of Arts with a major in computer science, the Bachelor of Science and Arts with a major in computer science, or the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, option I and option V degree programs, the student must earn a grade of at least C in each of three entry-level courses: Computer Science 311 or 311H, Computer Science 312 or 312H, and 314 or 314H. It is recommended that he or she complete all of the entry-level courses in residence at the University. However, he or she may request that transfer courses taken prior to enrollment at the University of Texas at Austin be approved as substitutes for the entry-level courses. Upon enrollment at the University of Texas at Austin, all remaining entry-level courses must be taken in residence. The letter grades for approved transfer courses will be used in combination with entry-level courses taken in residence to calculate the grade point average required for admission to the major. He or she must earn a grade point average of at least 2.75 in the three entry-level courses taken in residence or out of residence, and a grade point average of at least 2.00 in all courses taken in residence. No more than two of the three entry-level courses may be attempted more than once. A symbol of CR earned from a pass/fail enrollment, Q earned from dropping a course, or W earned from withdrawal from the university counts as an attempt. A student who is not admitted may submit an appeal to
If the appeal is approved, the student may enroll once in CS 429. If the student makes a grade of at least B-, he or she will be admitted to the Bachelor of Arts with a major in computer science, the Bachelor of Science and Arts with a major in computer science, or the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, option I and option V degree programs. These requirements apply to entry-level computer science students seeking admission to the Bachelor of Arts major in Computer Science, the Bachelor of Science and Arts major in Computer Science, and the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, option I and option V.

Students are evaluated after the end of each fall semester, spring semester, and summer session by the Department of Computer Science Admission Committee. Students should consult advisers in the College of Natural Sciences Department of Computer Science for information about admission to the major.

A student admitted to the Bachelor of Arts with a major in computer science, the Bachelor of Science and Arts with a major in computer science, or the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, option I or option V degree programs who cannot complete CS 429, 439, and 331 with grades of at least a C- within two attempts may be removed from the major and placed into the natural sciences undeclared major. A symbol of CR earned from a pass/fail enrollment, Q earned from dropping a course, or W earned from withdrawal from the university counts as an attempt. A third and final attempt may be granted if the student is given a non-academic drop or non-academic withdrawal during the semester in which the course is taken.

**The Integrated Program in Computer Science**

The Integrated Program is a curriculum of undergraduate and graduate coursework that allows the student to earn the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and the Master of Science in Computer Science, the Master of Science in Information Studies, or the Master of Science in Computational Science, Engineering, and Mathematics degrees at the same time. The integrated Master of Science in Computer Science includes the same coursework as the traditional master’s degree program, as well as the opportunity for research. The integrated Master of Science in Information Studies allows students to choose a pathway for completing a capstone and electronic portfolio comprised of a professional experience project, a master’s report, or a thesis. The integrated Master of Science in Computational Science, Engineering, and Mathematics includes the same coursework as the traditional computational sciences, engineering and mathematics master's degree program and also offers opportunity for research.

Students in the Integrated Program are expected to become leaders in the profession. Highly motivated students with the personal qualities and intellectual capacity to establish successful careers in higher education and industry are encouraged to apply.

Undergraduates typically follow option I, II, or III for their first three years, then enter the Integrated Program in their fourth year. Admission is granted only for the fall semester; January 2nd is the application deadline for those who wish to begin the program the following fall. By the end of the spring semester in which they apply, students must have completed at least sixty semester hours of coursework, including Computer Science 429 or 429H, 439 or 439H, and 331 or 331H, 345 or 345H, 429 or 429H, and 353.

Admission is based on the applicant’s grade point average, letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, and SAT Reasoning Test or ACT scores, as well as other relevant examples of academic ability and leadership. An applicant with a University grade point average of less than 3.50 is unlikely to be admitted. Admission may be restricted by the availability of instructional resources. Application materials and information about deadlines are published by the Department of Computer Science, available at http://www.cs.utexas.edu/.

Before beginning the fifth year, students in the Integrated Program must be admitted to the Graduate School and the graduate program in the Department of Computer Science, the School of Information, or the Institute of Computational Science, Engineering, and Mathematics. Application forms must be completed by January 2 of the student’s fourth year. Before the application deadline, students must have completed the prescribed work common to all Bachelor of Science in Computer Science options. They must earn an acceptable score on the Graduate Record Examinations General Test (GRE) and must have their test scores reported to the University. Students usually take the GRE in the fall semester of their fourth year.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Exclusive: of *exclusive* application and of primary interest only to a single college or school ("no protest" period is 5 *working days*); general: of *general* interest to more than one college or school (but not for submission to the General Faculty) ("no protest" period is 10 *working days*); major legislation must be submitted to the General Faculty for adoption ("no protest" period is 10 *working days*).

The proposed text should be based on the text of the current catalog available at [http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catcopy.html](http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council/pages/catalog_chgs/catcopy.html).

**Strike through and replace (with underlines) only the specific language to be changed. Do NOT use “track changes!”** For questions on completing this section, please contact Victoria Cervantes, fc@austin.utexas.edu, 471-5936 or Brenda Schumann, brenda.schumann@austin.utexas.edu, 475-7654.