

From: [James Fredal](#)
To: [Lawrence Krissek](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)
Subject: Semester Conversion Proposal CIS BS Degree
Date: Wednesday, May 18, 2011 10:59:01 PM
Attachments: [ChemistryBS_CCI.doc](#)

To: Larry Krissek, Chair, Committee on Curriculum and Instruction (CCI)

From: James Fredal, Chair, CCI Social, Behavioral, Biological, Mathematical and Physical Sciences Subcommittee

Re: Semester Conversion Proposal for Computer and Information Science (CIS) BS degree

Date: May 17, 2011

Larry:

The Sciences subcommittee of the CCI met on Monday, May 16th to review the semester conversion proposal for the CIS BS degree program and voted unanimously to approve the program and to recommend its approval to CCI. The program is listed as undergoing significant changes through conversion for several reasons. First, a number of course requirements outside the program (including GE requirements) totaled fewer credit hours than predicted by the conversion ratio. This smaller proportion of GE and outside course hours meant that the number of hours inside the unit could be increased, allowing for greater parity in the technical aspects of the program with the CSE BS degree. Also, ECE 2000 was also added, again to match the technical requirements of the CSE BS. As a result of these changes, students have a clear choice between the two degrees (one with non-computing classes in engineering, the other with non-computing classes in the liberal arts) without sacrificing the rigor of the computing portion of either degree. For these reasons, the PACER chart shows a significant drop in hours outside the unit, and a corresponding increase in the hours inside the unit. The other significant change is a shift in how prerequisite courses were counted. Under quarters, they were listed as GEC requirements even where specific courses were identified within the GEC categories as requirements for the major. Those courses are now listed as prerequisites to the degree even when they fulfill GE categories. Thus, a substantial increase in the number of prerequisite hours shows up on the PACER chart.

This program was initially returned by the Sciences subcommittee with a number of issues that have since been addressed. The number of program learning goals is large and unwieldy, but they are dictated by ABET as a part of its accreditation program, which CIS plans to apply for in the future. The only other outstanding issue is the listing of the Biological Sciences

requirement on the advising sheet, which will not likely be one five-credit class (as the advising sheet implies). This is a small matter but might be revised by, for example, including two slots for that requirement to indicate to students that they will likely need to take two classes to fulfill the requirement. All of our other requests were addressed and questions answered. Therefore we are sending it forward to the full CCI.

Thank you.

Jim Fredal

cc: Bernadette Vankeerbergen

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