**Top Tips: Academic Planning Advice for Computer Sciences Certificate Students**

*for students declaring prior to fall 2017*

**Certificate Requirements**
Be sure to carefully review the [CS certificate requirements](#) page for detailed information on requirements.

**DARS**
Be sure to review your [DARS](#) report for your CS certificate after you enroll each semester to ensure the classes you have selected apply to your certificate.

**CS 302**
CS certificate students are advised to take CS 302 as a pre-requisite to CS 367 except in unusual circumstances (this bring the total number of courses required to complete the certificate to 6 courses).

**Course Combinations and Completion Time**
Most certificate students take one CS course each semester, or possibly two. Therefore, it is advisable to begin the certificate as early as possible, so as not to overload courses. It is generally not recommended to take more than one heavy programming course each semester. Heavy programming courses include CS 301, 310, 302, 367, 354, 407, 506, 536, 537, 564, 640, and 642.

**Pre-requisites and Course Sequencing**
Students should develop their course plan as early as possible to ensure timely completion of prerequisites. For example, a student interested in CS 564 would need to complete the below sequence:

```
CS 302        CS 252
  ↓            ↓
CS 367        CS 354
  ↓            ↓
CS 564
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Additionally, CS 367 and CS 354 are both heavy programming classes and it is not advisable to take both simultaneously. In this case, the above sequence would take a minimum of four semesters to complete.

Students are encouraged to consult Course Guide to review prerequisites for CS courses (select “Computer Sciences” under “Subject” and “no selected term” for a complete catalog listing).

Degree Planner
The Course Guide has a useful “degree plans” function tab that allows you to see whether your requirements will be met with courses you plan to take in the future. Once in the Course Guide, add courses to your plan by clicking the below icon. Then, head over to the “degree plans” tab to sort your classes into future terms. You can then run a DARS report to ensure your requirements will be met with the classes you have planned.

Cross-listed Courses
Courses that are cross-listed with Computer Sciences may be counted towards the CS certificate. For example, CS/ECE/ISYE 524 may be counted towards the CS certificate.

You can view cross-listings by clicking the title of the course in Course Guide. Courses not listed or cross-listed in Computer Sciences may not be counted towards the certificate.

Math Requirement?
The CS certificate does not have a math requirement. However, certain advanced CS courses have math prerequisites. Therefore, it is advisable to identify future coursework as early as possible in order to incorporate any necessary math (or other) prerequisites.

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