

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

NEW DEGREE PROPOSAL: Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Computer Science, College of Engineering (CIP 11.0701)

OTHER SUS INSTITUTIONS OFFERING SAME PROGRAM: FAU, USF, UCF

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval of the BS with a major in Computer Science, College of Engineering.

DEMONSTRATED NEED FOR PROGRAM

Many valid, yet different, approaches to studying computer science are suitable for students with different goals. With our current degree programs, we already provide several. However, we currently do not provide a good option for those who want a very strong technical background in Computer Science but are not interested in a strong hardware emphasis. Such students must either choose the CLAS Computer Science degree, which allows students to obtain a liberal arts education but is less technically rigorous than the proposed degree; or choose the Computer Engineering degree and take hardware and engineering core courses that are not of interest to the students or valued by their future employers. The lack of flexibility for students in the Computer Engineering program eliminates the opportunity for any sort of interdisciplinary focus in that program. The proposed Computer Science degree in the College of Engineering fills this gap. The interdisciplinary electives allow this degree program to easily adapt to the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of computing and provide more flexibility for students.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The CISE Department's Student Services Center receives frequent inquiries from students who would like to pursue a Computer Science program through the college of Engineering. The inquiries are typically centered on the student's desire to become a software engineer without being required to complete Electrical Engineering courses. These students want to focus on engineering of new software, not on the hardware aspects taught in the advanced Electrical Engineering courses. Other inquiries stem from prospective students who in researching Computer Science degrees at other institutions found many of those degrees were from Engineering colleges. In addition, although graduates of our existing degree programs are highly regarded by those employers who are familiar with them, feedback from the CISE Industrial Advisory Board tells us that offering a standard BS in Computer Science through the College of Engineering may make it easier for some companies to effectively recruit at UF.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

The overarching goal of the University of Florida Strategic Plan is to "raise the University of Florida into the ranks of the nation's great universities." More specifically, the university plans to strengthen key disciplines in the core colleges. Engineering has been designated as a "core college" and within Engineering, Computer Science has been designated a key area. The new program will strengthen the undergraduate program in this key area.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION

Projected FTE and headcount are:

	Projected Headcount	Student FTE	Faculty Headcount	Faculty FTE
First Year	250	250		
Second Year	350	350		
Third Year	355	355		
Fourth Year	385	385		
Fifth Year	430	430		

Additional Comments:

Supporting Documentation Included:

None

Other Support Documents Available:

Full proposal approved by the University Curriculum Committee and the Faculty Senate

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