

Computer science offering new minor

The CIT minor will involve computer software and programs

By G. Jaros
Oregon Daily Emerald

A new computer minor is being offered to students interested in learning how to use various computer software and programs without becoming computer programmers.

Computer Information Technology (CIT) is a new minor that is being offered by the computer science department. It will focus on using technology in its applied form. This means using software to learn how to manage, configure and work on computers for group networking and business application software, said Program Director Jayne Miller.

Miller stressed that Computer Science and Computer Information Technology are two different things. The computer scientist builds the software that the information technologist might use, Miller said. A minimum of 24 credits, 12 lower division and 12 upper division are required for the minor.

The new minor is only for students not majoring or minoring in Computer and Information Science (CIS), Miller said.

"The reason we are offering this is because we were asked by the dean of the college of arts and sciences to offer this minor to non-computer science students as a service to the University because [deans and department heads] saw a need for it," Miller said.

"They had a demand, they already had people asking and they already had deans and department heads from other colleges

like the school of business and journalism and the economics department and psychology," Miller said. "People wanted their students to have computer skills and technology before they left the U of O."

Having some computer savvy is quickly becoming an indispensable skill in today's job market.

"I think the Computer and Information Technology minor is a wonderful addition to the options students have to advance their career," said Larry Smith, director of the University Career Center. Smith said that he thinks knowing how to use computer software is one of the primary "currencies" of future jobs and careers.

Because the new CIT minor wasn't approved until May 12, the fall class schedule doesn't list any CIT abbreviated classes, but two are being offered. Because of the minor's late approval the courses are listed in the fall schedule under CIS headings. CIT 281 is listed as CIS 199 and CIT 381 is listed as CIS 399.

Students are required to take CIT 281 along with two 100 level CIS courses. The lower division courses must be taken for a grade and students must receive a B-average or better to be admitted to the upper division courses. Some 100 level CIS courses do not apply, so interested students should call the department, Miller said.

Students who have already taken CIS 120, CIS multimedia, the 199 multimedia and other applicable courses may already qualify for the upper division courses, Miller said.

Students who have questions about the new CIT minor should call Jayne Miller at 346-3935.

Wisdom

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more, she said, because she was able to take a wider variety of classes.

Suvimol Sathan-Art, a business administration major, and Pradhan agreed with Hall. They said students should enjoy being sophomores because many students may get busier when they are taking upper-division classes.

Pradhan said sophomore year is the best time for students to get involved in the University since they have become more familiar with the community. Pradhan's job as a resident assistant this year

has helped her meet new people.

Sathan-Art recommends other sophomores plan studying abroad during their sophomore year. She will be studying in Beijing this fall.

"I got more respect from my family," Sathan-Art said. "They think I am more mature, and they are more open to me."

Some students may experience changes in their social lives during their sophomore year. Hall moved off campus at the beginning of her sophomore year, which allowed her to have more freedom and

meet older students. She said she was living in an environment surrounded mostly by other freshman students when on campus.

But not everyone is excited about the changes.

Kitte Chen, a business administration major, said she found no difference in her academic life. She said being a sophomore is just the time for her to determine her major.

"When you study more, it's kind of having a better grasp of what you want to do and where you are going," Chen said.

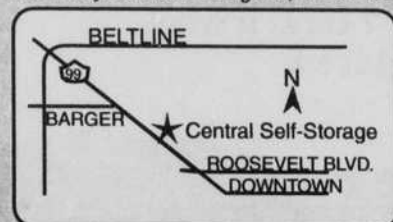


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