

## Curriculum Change in Junior Year for CS and ACT Majors FAQ

1. Why are you making this change to the CS and ACT curriculum?
  - We strive to ensure our students receive a computing education that will make them successful and regularly review industry needs with our advisory board, and review the most recent curriculum guidelines of the CSAB/ACM. Based on periodic review, the CS Dept. has determined that our 300-level course offerings should offer more in the way of practical algorithms, and computer security (which is becoming more important as time goes on). Therefore, we have decided to replace CS301 (formal languages and automata) with CS320 (algorithm theory and practice), and to add a new course CS356 (system security). In order to conserve credits, we decided to require four three-credit courses instead of three four-credit courses.
2. Why are we receiving less credit for CS 314 and CS 370 (exact same course/title as in the past)?
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> credit for CS314 and CS370 to this point was attributable to the large lab projects required in each course. These larger projects will be replaced by smaller assignments.
  - Larger programming projects will be required especially in CS253 and will continue to be the norm in the 400-level courses to compensate.
  - The basic content of CS314 and CS370 *will not change*.
3. How is CS 320 different from CS 301?
  - CS 320 will cover design, implementation and efficiency analysis of advanced data structures and data access algorithms, and use of these algorithms in applications. CS 301 was primarily a pure theory course concerned with formal languages and automata.
4. What is the course description for CS 356?
  - Computer and system security, authentication, access control, malicious software, and software security.
5. What are the pre-requisites for these new courses?
  - CS 314: CS 253 with a C or better
  - CS 320: CS 200 with a C or better, CS 253 with a C or better, MATH 161 with a C or better, MATH 229 or MATH 369 with a C or better,
  - CS 356: CS 200 with a C or better, CS 270 with a C or better, CS 253 with a C or better

- CS 370: CS 200 with a C or better; CS 270 with a C or better or ECE 251 with a C or better
6. Would you recommend any changes to spring 2010 course registration, based on these Fall 2010 changes?
- The plan outlined in this memo covers various scenarios, so no changes for spring 2010 are required. However, this is an individual decision based on your interests and degree plans.