Minor in Computer Science (VCSC)

Undergraduate

VCSC Basic Goals

1. Students who complete a minor in Computer Science will acquire a foundation in basic programming fundamentals with an emphasis on modern programming practices.

2. A minor in Computer Science will provide an opportunity for students to expand their programming foundation by either delving more deeply into programming or by sampling selected theoretical or applied areas within Computer Science.

Policies and Requirements

- A minor in Computer Science is open to all undergraduate students matriculated at RIT, except for students majoring in Computer Science.

- A student must complete at least 20 quarter hours of approved Computer Science courses. All courses must be taken from the Department of Computer Science at RIT.

- At least 12 of the 20 quarter hours must be in courses not required by a student's home program.

- Posting of the minor on a student's transcript requires a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the minor courses.

- A minor may not be added after certification of degree.

Minor Coursework Details

The minor in Computer Science was deliberately designed with as few restrictions as possible. Practically, however, students in majors that either requires some Computer Science courses or that expects their students to gain programming skills will have a broader opportunity to explore different facets of the discipline.

The introductory programming core consists of:

- Problem-Based Intro to CS (4003-241)
- Data Structures for Problem Solving (4003-242)
- Object-Oriented Programming (4003-243)

and this sequence is prerequisite to Computer Science 4 (4003-334), a course that is either a direct or indirect prerequisite for many other Computer Science course offerings. (Note, prior to 2009-2010, the introductory programming core consisted of: Computer Science 1, 2, 3 (4003-231, 232, 233) and students who have completed this sequence may also use them toward a minor and may also take Computer Science 4).
Please Note: Students declaring this minor need to complete the introductory programming core completely in the 2012-2013 academic year, prior to semester conversion. If this is not feasible, students should wait to take the CS minor under semesters.

The minor advisor will evaluate a student’s prior computing background and advise the student regarding initial placement. Students may choose any courses from the master list of all Undergraduate Computer Science course offerings (this list includes all courses required of Computer Science majors as well as all Computer Science electives and “experimental” courses typically first offered under the 4003-590 course number), subject to the exceptions listed below. Under appropriate circumstances, students may also be permitted to take graduate-level Computer Science courses.

Students may not use any of the following courses toward a minor in Computer Science:

- Service courses that begin with the 4001 prefix
- Honors Seminar (4003-102)
- C for C++ Programmers (4003-309)
- Scientific Programming (4003-318)
- Professional Communications (4003-341)
- Problem Solving Seminar (4003-598)

Advising and Procedures

Students should set up a meeting with either the Manager of Student Services or the minor advisor in the CS Department. Liane Fitzgerald (liane@cs.rit.edu) serves as the Manager of Student Services and Professor Henry Etlinger (hae@cs.rit.edu), Undergraduate Program Coordinator, serves as the minor advisor. They will evaluate a student’s prior computing and programming background, approve a student’s plan of study, authorize course substitutions, if appropriate, and notify a student’s home department program once a student has satisfied the minor requirements. Once the form is signed by either the Manager of Student Services or the minor advisor, the form will be returned to the student's home department for processing.