

Rowan University  
Computer Science Department

**Proposal For A New Non-General Education  
Zero-Credit Course:  
Computer Science Learning Community**

**1. Details**

**a. Course Title**

CS 01.000 Computer Science Learning Community

**b. Sponsor**

Stephen J. Hartley and the Computer Science Department.

**c. Credit Hours**

Zero (0.0) credit hours.

**d. Course Level**

All levels.

General Education designation is not applicable and not sought.

**e. Prerequisites**

Declared Computer Science major.

**f. Time and Scale of Implementation**

Offered every semester starting with the 2010–2011 academic year.

**2. Curricular Effect**

**a. Offerings**

No course will be deleted from the curriculum as a result of adding this course.

No changes in faculty loads are anticipated.

This course will be scheduled for one meeting a week.

The enrollments in courses outside of Computer Science might decrease as a result of scheduling this course because of time conflicts. By design, there will be no time conflicts with other Computer Science courses.

All Computer Science Learning Community students will be registered automatically in this course each semester and they will not be able to drop it.

#### **b. Adequacy of Resources**

The current staff of the Computer Science department and available computing resources are adequate to implement the proposed course.

A classroom of adequate size will be requested through the usual mechanism as is done for any course offering.

#### **c. Recommended Library Resources**

No new library resources are needed to run this course.

#### **d. Short-Term Evaluation**

The Department Curriculum Committee routinely evaluates all courses to confirm that they meet the standards of the Department, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the University.

### **3. Rationale**

The Computer Science department needs a common time when all of its Learning Community students are available to meet with each other and with the department's faculty.

The day and time scheduled for this course will be the same day and time that is currently reserved by the department for departmental meetings, usually held once a month. No Computer Science faculty member is ever scheduled to teach during this day and time, traditionally 10:50 am every Wednesday.

### **4. Essence of the Course**

Several times a month at the scheduled day and time for this course, Computer Science faculty members will meet with the Learning Community students for various activities.

Such activities include faculty research talks, discussion of student life, mentoring and tutoring of freshman majors by upperclass majors, introduction to the profession, brown-bag lunches, pizza parties, etc.

#### **a. Objectives in Relation to Student Outcomes**

This course is needed as a component of implementing the Computer Science Learning Community. The major objective of the Learning Community, and thus of this course, is to establish and reinforce the sense of community among undergraduate students majoring in CS.

All Rowan Learning Communities are designed to implement the following University objectives for Learning Communities.

1. Assist new and transfer students in their academic adjustment to Rowan University.
2. Assist new and transfer students in their social adjustment to Rowan University.

3. Assist students in becoming intentional learners who have an increased awareness of self, major, and careers.
4. Assist students in increasing their awareness of Rowan's policies, procedures, processes, and current campus information.
5. Increase student satisfaction and retention.
6. Increase student, faculty, and staff interaction.
7. Support graduation of Rowan University students in 4–6 years.
8. Assist students in establishing a connection with one or more faculty or staff at Rowan.
9. Foster academic and student affairs collaboration.

## **b. Topical Outline/Content**

The Computer Science Learning Community outcomes are detailed in the proposal to Student Affairs that established our Learning Community.

Academic and social adjustment; formation of study groups; facilitate learning; nurture different learning styles; interest students in faculty research; improve four and five year graduation rates; improve retention, particularly of females; interest students in professional societies; acquaint majors with codes of ethics (professional and student); more internships; more double majors; more minors; and acquaint majors with the computer science specializations.

The group meetings made possible by this curriculum proposal will give us the opportunity to accomplish these outcomes.

## **c. Evaluation and Grading**

Starting with the fall 2010 semester, all Computer Science Learning Community members will be automatically registered for this course each semester until graduating to preserve the meeting day and time for Learning Community activities.

Since this is a zero credit course used only as a scheduling mechanism, no grades will be assigned.

## **d. Course Evaluation**

The course will be evaluated through customary student evaluations as well as regular departmental review.

# **5. Results of Consultations**

We solicited letters of consultation from Mathematics, Management Information Systems, and Electrical/Computer Engineering. Received letters are attached.

From hartley@elvis.rowan.edu Fri Sep 4 15:04:46 2009  
Date: Fri, 4 Sep 2009 15:04:45 -0400 (EDT)  
From: Stephen Hartley <hartley@elvis.rowan.edu>  
To: head@rowan.edu, hamilton@rowan.edu, nguyen@rowan.edu

revised November 17, 2009

Cc: nlt@elvis.rowan.edu

Subject: Letter of Consultation for a zero-credit CS LC course

We want to set up a time every week when our CS freshman students are free (not scheduled for any class) so they can participate in learning community activities. We are proposing a fake zero-credit course they are all automatically registered in fall and spring semesters to implement this. It will be the same day and time as our monthly departmental meetings so CS faculty are also free to run the learning community meetings. We anticipate one or two learning community meetings a month.

The proposal is attached and we would like your feedback on this idea.

Thanks for your time and help.

Steve Hartley

From mcfarland@rowan.edu Sat Sep 5 05:52:23 2009  
Date: Sat, 5 Sep 2009 05:52:22 -0400  
From: "McFarland, Daniel J." <mcfarland@rowan.edu>  
To: hartley@elvis.rowan.edu  
Subject: Re: Letter of Consultation for a zero-credit CS LC course

Dear Steve,

Thank you for asking us to review this proposal. The MIS faculty strongly support your curriculum proposal to create a zero-credit, non-general education, Computer Science Learning Community course.

Daniel J. McFarland, Ph.D.  
MBA Program Director & Professor of MIS  
Rowan University  
201 Mullica Hill Road; Glassboro, NJ 08028  
ph 856.256.5426 ---- fx 856.256.4439

From head@rowan.edu Mon Sep 7 13:20:51 2009  
Date: Mon, 7 Sep 2009 13:20:48 -0400  
From: "Head, Linda M." <head@rowan.edu>  
To: Stephen Hartley <hartley@elvis.rowan.edu>,  
"Hamilton, Diane" <hamilton@rowan.edu>,  
"Nguyen, Hieu Duc" <nguyen@rowan.edu>  
Cc: "Tinkham, Nancy" <nlt@rowan.edu>,  
"Head, Linda M." <head@rowan.edu>,  
"Mandayam, Shreekanth A." <Shreek@rowan.edu>  
Subject: Consult for Computer Science Learning Community

Dear Dr. Hartley,

The ECE department generally favors the existence of courses/opportunities for the students to engage with their faculty, their discipline and each other. In engineering the lower division clinics serve some of the goals that you outline in your proposal and we find that these courses are very effective in increasing retention, identifying at-risk students and defining that sense of community that is very important to the university learning experience.

Thank you for the opportunity to consult on this new course. The ECE department supports the development and delivery of the course, Computer Science Learning Community.

Regards,  
Linda Head

Linda M. Head, PhD  
Associate Chair  
Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Rowan University  
201 Mullica Hill Rd.  
Glassboro, NJ 08028  
856-256-5335

From Nguyen@rowan.edu Tue Sep 8 10:45:38 2009  
Date: Tue, 8 Sep 2009 10:45:37 -0400  
From: "Nguyen, Hieu Duc" <Nguyen@rowan.edu>  
To: Stephen Hartley <hartley@elvis.rowan.edu>  
Subject: Re: Letter of Consultation for a zero-credit CS LC course

Steve,

The Math Department fully supports your proposal for a zero-credit Learning Community course for Computer Science majors. This will create an open time slot for scheduling activities where all CS students can attend. We may consider creating a similar LC course for our majors.

--Hieu

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Hieu Nguyen  
Professor and Chair  
Department of Mathematics  
Rowan University  
Glassboro, NJ 08028  
nguyen@rowan.edu

**CS 01.000** ..... **0 s. h.**

**Computer Science Learning Community**

*(Prerequisites: Declared Computer Science major.)*

This course is a component of the department's Learning Community. Registration in this course provides a mechanism for Learning Community students to meet at the same time with faculty members and upperclass majors for various Learning Community activities designed to promote the goals of the Learning Community: academic and social adjustment; formation of study groups; facilitate learning; nurture different learning styles; interest students in faculty research; improve four and five year graduation rates; improve retention, particularly of females; interest students in professional societies; acquaint majors with codes of ethics (professional and student); more internships; more double majors; more minors; and acquaint majors with the computer science specializations.