

## Policy Pertaining to the Computing Sciences Colloquia

Spring 2021

Department of Computing Sciences

University of Scranton

The Computing Sciences Colloquia was initiated for the 2019-2020 academic year, with the first regular course offerings starting in Fall 2020. The Colloquia consists of a series of six 0.5 credit courses, required as part of the curricula of each of the department's undergraduate programs (Computer Science, Applied Computing and Information Technology), and designed to be taken during the second through fourth years of study. As such, this requirement totals 3.0 credits spread out over three years.

CMPS 213 – Sophomore Colloquia I, CMPS 313 – Junior Colloquia I and CMPS 413 – Senior Colloquia I are to be offered each fall semester, and CMPS 214 – Sophomore Colloquia II, CMPS 314 – Junior Colloquia II and CMPS 414 – Senior Colloquia II are to be offered each spring semester. These are collectively referred to as the “regularly scheduled Colloquia courses”.

The following policies are established regarding the Colloquia.

- Every Sophomore, Junior and Senior “computing major” is expected to be enrolled in one of the regularly scheduled Colloquia courses each semester. First-year students are not prohibited from enrolling, and so those students with AP credit or those considering completing degree requirements in less than four years, should consider enrolling early.
- Courses must be completed in numerical order by year. Thus, 213 before 313, 214 before 314, 313 before 413, and 314 before 414. Note that because of fall-spring scheduling constraints, 214 may be taken before 213, 314 before 313, and 414 before 413.
- No student will be allowed to register for more than one of the regularly scheduled Colloquia courses in any semester.
- Students unable to complete the Colloquia Requirement by their expected graduation date have two immediate options:
  - The preferred option is to enroll in CMPS 415 – Senior Colloquia Completion or CMPS 416 – Senior Colloquia Completion, during the student's last semester or semesters of study and concurrent with the highest numbered regularly scheduled Colloquia course they are eligible to enroll in. CMPS 415 will only be offered during fall semesters and CMPS 416 will only be offered during spring semesters.

CMPS 415 and CMPS 416 have been established as variable-credit courses, thus allowing for the appropriate amount of credit to be earned to complete the aggregate credit requirement of the Colloquia.

These courses are intended to be used to substitute for one or more of the regularly scheduled Colloquia courses and require both the permission of the Department of Computing Sciences and a departmental faculty member willing to serve as instructor. Both the Registrar and College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office recognize CMPS 415 and CMPS 416 as substituting for one or more of the regular scheduled Colloquia courses; so a separate Course Substitution Form will **not** be required.

CMPS 415 and CMPS 416 are to be run as a type of individual study or research course where one or more students work closely and regularly with the departmental faculty member offering the course, investigating one or more topics of interest relevant to them and the Colloquia. Each student participating in CMPS 415 and CMPS 416 will be expected to produce some corresponding artifact (report, presentation, etc.), commensurate with the amount of credit being earned, and meant to contribute to the overall substance of the Colloquia.

- A second option would be to solicit a departmental faculty member to offer individual “reader” sections of the regularly scheduled Colloquia courses needed. However, reader courses require the Dean's approval and there are established limitations, for students and faculty alike, on the number of reader courses warranting such approval.