

COURSE: CMPS 213, CMPS 313, CMPS 413 – Computing Sciences Colloquia
Department of Computing Sciences, University of Scranton
DATE: Fall 2026 (August 31, 2026 – December 19, 2026)
INSTRUCTOR: P. M. Jackowitz
OFFICE: LSC 192
OFFICE HOURS: As posted (online and office door), and by appointment.
(Additionally, remote access can be provided through Microsoft Teams.)
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Catalog Descriptions:

CMPS 213 – Sophomore Colloquia I, 0.5 credits, (Co-requisite CMPS 134)

CMPS 213 is offered each Fall Semester. Each semester a minimum of five meetings are held where important, emerging, or interesting topics in computing are presented and discussed. The material comes from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, faculty, alumni, invited speakers, students and professional webinars and videos.

CMPS 313 – Junior Colloquia I, 0.5 credits, (Prerequisite: CMPS 213)

CMPS 313 is offered each Fall Semester. Each semester a minimum of five meetings are held where important emerging, or interesting topics in computing are presented and discussed. The material comes from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, faculty, alumni, invited speakers, students, and professional webinars and videos.

CMPS 413 – Senior Colloquia I, 0.5 credits, (Prerequisite: CMPS 313)

CMPS 413 is offered each Fall Semester. Each semester a minimum of five meetings are held where important emerging, or interesting topics in computing are presented and discussed. The material comes from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, faculty, alumni, invited speakers, students, and professional webinars and videos.

Student Learning Outcomes:

CMPS 213 is the first, CMPS 313 is the third, and CMPS 413 is the fifth in a six-course sequence of courses designed to be taken by computing majors during the six semesters of their sophomore, junior and senior years. The intent is for each student to accumulate a total of 3.0 credits by completing the sequence, as they develop an increasing involvement in each course.

This sequence of courses, as a colloquia series, is motivated as a means of better fulfilling the ABET student learning outcome dealing with professional development and lifelong learning. Upon completion of the course sequence, a successful student will have:

- Gained an appreciation of the value of staying up to date with developments in computing
- Gained a better appreciation of the breadth of impact and significance of computing
- Begun to identify those areas of computing they might wish to pursue in more depth
- Improved their listening and writing skills, specifically in regard to identifying and communicating key points
- Improved and grown in confidence in their written and oral communication skills

TEXTS: None required.
REFERENCES: As presented and as required.

Course Materials: The corresponding Brightspace "course" will provide students access to course materials, with "drop boxes" configured for the submission of assignments and related work to the instructor.

GRADING:

Each student will receive either 'S' or 'U' as their final course grade, indicating either an overall evaluation of "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory" performance throughout the semester. Determination of the final course grade is based upon attendance, participation, contribution to the colloquia and the grades received on assignments given throughout the semester.

Typically assignments require the student to write a brief document in which they present a synopsis of the most recent Colloquia meeting, supplemented with a reflection of their understanding and appreciation of what was presented at the meeting. Some assignments may call upon the student to investigate some topic area and write a brief report on the results of that investigation. For each meeting and related assignment and activity the student will receive one of the following four grades: Absent or Unsubmitted (thus Zero), Unsatisfactory, Satisfactory, or Noteworthy.

To earn a "Satisfactory" final course grade a student must earn predominantly "Satisfactory" or "Noteworthy" grades throughout the semester. Thus, first and foremost, students must be present for all (or nearly all) meetings and complete all (or nearly all) required assignments on time.

Multiple Absent or Unsubmitted grades place the student in serious jeopardy of failing the course. Persistent Unsatisfactory grades would indicate an underlying issue that needs to be addressed, that if not acted upon may likewise place the student in jeopardy of failing the course. Students receiving Unsatisfactory grades on submitted reports may be required to seek assistance from the Writing Center at the Office of Student Support & Success (OSSS) and provide evidence of this and of improved writing to the course instructor.

MEETING DATES:

Student schedules specify these courses meet concurrently on Fridays during the 3:00 - 4:15 time period. This has been done to assure that every registered student has no conflict that might prevent them from attending **all** colloquia meetings. However, no more than six meetings are expected to be held at these times and the exact dates and topics for these six meetings have yet to be finalized and will remain subject to change throughout the semester.

Students are strongly encouraged to regularly refer to the promulgated schedule and meeting announcements. This includes through email, and on the Brightspace course.

All students are expected to attend colloquia meetings in-person. Students needing to attend remotely for any health reason are to follow established University procedures will then trigger a notification to the instructor from the respective Deans' Office. However, **it remains the responsibility of every student wishing to attend remotely, for any reason, to promptly and without hesitation communicate this to the instructor and to make specific arrangements ahead of time.**

Furthermore, all students allowed to attend remotely are expected to read and abide by the detailed statement of policy, entitled Remote Attendance - Expectations and Etiquette, available at the instructor's link provided above and on the Brightspace course page.

As much as possible presenters will appear in-person, but given the diverse situations of the individuals volunteering their time and expertise to us remote appearances may be necessary. Even in those situations we will still convene in-person for the meetings.

PROCEDURES:

Decorum:

- please arrive early so as to allow time to have your attendance recorded (by card swipe) so that you are seated and attentive for the scheduled start of the meeting/presentation
- feel free to ask and answer questions, and to contribute to discussions
- classroom use of electronic devices/gadgets (including computers) is at the full discretion of the instructor. (*Distracting others or yourself will not be tolerated.*)
- due to past abuses and unprofessional behavior (of just a few students), all computers, tablets, smartphones, etc. must be kept completely out of sight and unused during meetings. Please be sure to silence all devices so as not to cause any disruption.

Other:

- see Academic Code of Honesty in the Student Handbook at:
<https://www.scranton.edu/academics/cte/acad-integ/acad-code-honesty.shtml>
- See "Syllabi Language" regarding "My Reporting Obligations as a Required Reporter" at:
<https://www.scranton.edu/equity-diversity/faculty-resources.shtml>