Academic Success
Setting Expectations
Department of Computer Science
University of Colorado at Boulder
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These slides are available on our website:
<http://www.cs.colorado.edu/>
Introductions

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Outline

- Expectations
- Things to Know
  - About Professors
  - About Classes/Policies
- CS Due Dates / Requirements — Lesley
- CSEL — Zach
- Q&A
Department Expectations

• We expect a lot from you!
  • Great departments REQUIRE great students

• You need to be
  • energetic, enthusiastic, willing to work hard
  • able to manage your time
  • aware of your responsibilities

• College is expensive: you need to take control of your experience from day one!
Freshman Seminar

- As a result, Freshman Seminar is now a required class!
- CSCI 1000-001
- **Computer Science as a Field of Work and Study**
- Instructor: Clayton Lewis
- Time: 5:00 PM – 5:50 PM on Mondays
- Location: ECCR 265
Department Expectations

• Maintain your GPA
  • You need a cumulative GPA of 2.0 (C) or better
    • in all CS courses (foundation/core/capstone/electives)
    • in all courses attempted at CU
    • in all courses used to satisfy graduation requirements
  • You need at least a C- or better in all CS foundation and Track core/foundation courses
  • You need at least a C- or better for a prerequisite course to count for a required course in order to count that prerequisite towards degree requirements
Know Your Course Requirements

They are listed on the department’s website

e.g., CSCI 3308 requires CSCI 2270

They are listed graphically here:

Department Expectations

• Accept Responsibility for your Education
  • If you need help, ask
    • professors, advisors (especially Lesley!)
  • Examine courses carefully during the first two weeks
    • if you don’t like what you see, drop it
• Get to know your professors
  • Visit office hours
• Making excuses and blaming others is bad form
Things to Know: Professors

- What to call us
  - Good: Dr. Anderson, Prof. Anderson, Ken
  - Bad: Mr. Anderson
- Professors work hard; be respectful of their time
- Come prepared to class, meetings, office hours
- Send e-mail if you have to cancel a scheduled meeting
- Professors care deeply about your education
  - but they are not here to serve you
- Keep your end of the bargain: study, think, learn
Things to Know: Professors

• Absent Minded Professor Stereotype is TRUE
  • Due to demands on our time
  • the number of things we need to track
    • classes, grants, papers, students, family, ...
• So help your professor out
  • Assume they have no long-term memory (!!)
  • Be prepared to explain your situation multiple times
  • Be patient and flexible
• Professors can be demanding
  • its harder to get away with sloppy work/thinking here
Things to Know: Classes

• Attend class and lab sections
• Take notes
• Beware the “Midterm Surprise”
• Do not disrupt class
  • Web surfing, reading the paper, and talking are all bad form
• Be understanding of other students
• College classes are more heterogeneous than in high school
Things to Know: Policies

• Course Repetition
  • If you receive a D+ or lower in a class, you can repeat it
  • Original grade removed from GPA and credit hour calculation
  • Lots of Constraints: up to 10 credit hours can be repeated, can only repeat course once, new grade replaces old grade even if its LOWER, etc.

• This program will END at the end of Summer 2010
• <http://registrar.colorado.edu/students/registration/course_repetition.html>
Things to Know: Policies

- University Honor Code
  - Requires commitment to academic integrity
  - Professors are required to make it clear when you can/cannot work with other students on assignments
  - You will be asked to sign a pledge that you followed these requests on exams, labs, etc.
  - More details available on CU’s website
Things to Know: Email

- You are going to get a lot of it!
  - From your friends, instructors and faculty, the department, the college, the campus and student groups!
- Do NOT tune it out!
  - Instead, learn how to manage your e-mail
    - Filters, folders, flagging, search, etc.
  - and get in the habit of checking it at least once per day
Wrapping Up (Part One)

• We are excited to have you in our program!
• We expect a lot out of you but we want you to succeed!
• Consider getting involved in research
  • Can help with graduate school
  • Looks good on resumé
• Check out Faculty web pages to learn more
Lesley McDowell
Undergraduate Program Advisor

ECOT 721

8:30 AM — 12:00 PM
1:00 PM — 4:30 PM

To schedule an appointment:
lesley.mcdowell@colorado.edu
or
(303) 492-6362
colorado.edu account

- It’s very important that you create your .colorado.edu account right away
- Sending e-mail to that account is the official means of communication between you and the University, the College, faculty members and program advisors
Floor Plans

- Floor Plans for the College of Engineering:
  - <http://www.cs.colorado.edu/department/maps/>
Academic Deadlines

• You are responsible to know and keep track of all academic and CU-related deadlines

• They can be found at:
  • <http://registrar.colorado.edu/calendar/calendar_fall09.html>

• Two important deadlines:
  • Add Deadline: Wednesday, September 2nd at 5:00 PM
  • Drop Deadline: Wednesday, September 9th at 5:00 PM
Academic Support

- College Academic Support and Tutoring Programs
  - [http://engineering.colorado.edu/academics/support.htm](http://engineering.colorado.edu/academics/support.htm)

- Student Academic Services Center:
  - [http://www.colorado.edu/SASC/](http://www.colorado.edu/SASC/)
CS-JOBS

- To subscribe to the CS-JOBS mailing list:
  - <http://www.cs.colorado.edu/department/jobsmail/>
Career Services

To subscribe to information from Career Services:

- <http://careerservices.colorado.edu/public/>

- Under the heading “CSO Student Login”, click on the link: “New users click here!”

- Important: there are two such links on the page so be sure to click on the one related to students!
CSEL

Computer Science Educational Labs
CSEL Resources

- 44 pxe-boot workstations running Ubuntu 9.04 x86_64
- 4 virtualized servers (the elra's) for remote access also running Ubuntu 9.04
- NFS mounted 3GB disk quota
- GigE infrastructure and a fast fibre up-link to campus
- Conference room
- Projectors
- Earn learns and system administrators
- 170 page printing quota
CSEL Resources (cont)

- Public web-space: public_html in home directory
  - http://csel.cs.colorado.edu/~<username>

- Personal MySQL databases: accessed remotely from csel.cs.colorado.edu
  - <username>_<db-name>
CSEL

• Who can create an account:
  • All CSEN majors and minors
  • Non majors/minors in certain classes

• The lab is funded by
  • Departmental funds
  • Student fees
  • University grants
  • The Dean of Engineering's office, and others
Using the CSEL

- https://csep.cs.colorado.edu – start here
- trouble@csep.cs.colorado.edu
- Visit: ECCS 102
- Need Software? (if a package exists, just ask for it)
- Surveys
- Protect the equipment your student funds help buy. Respect the labs!
Fun things in the CSEL

• ACM international programming contest!
• Join your friends in the ACM sponsored Halo tourney.
• Movie nights.
• Like system administration? Earn-Learn applications.
Important Stuff

- Account creation: Identisync
- https://sac.colorado.edu
- Error 301: not eligible (roster updates happen nightly) - try again the next day
Q&A

With

Ken, Lesley and our student representatives

Any questions?