Academic Success
Setting Expectations
Department of Computer Science
University of Colorado at Boulder
August 19, 2010

These slides will be available on our website:
<http://www.cs.colorado.edu/>
Introductions

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Department Chair

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Undergraduate Advisor
Introductions

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CSEL Admin
Outline

• Expectations
• Things to Know
  • About Professors
  • About Classes/Policies
• CS Due Dates / Requirements — Lesley
• CSEL — Chris
• 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

• Freshman Seminar is 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
Department Expectations

- 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

• 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

• To activate your CU email account, go to: <www.colorado.edu/its/students> and <www.colorado.edu/its/accounts>
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_fall10.html>

• Two important deadlines:
  • Add Deadline: Wednesday, September 1st at 5:00 PM
  • Drop Deadline: Wednesday, September 8th 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

- Forty-four 2.5GHz dual core Athlons with 4GB RAM
  - Network boot running Ubuntu 10.04 32-bit
  - (to be upgraded to 10.04 64-bit over Christmas break)
- 4 remote access servers (elra-01 ... elra-04.cs.colorado.edu)
- 3GB disk quota, same home directory seen on every machine and server
- Conference room
- Projectors available for checkout from CS main office
- 200 page printing quota
CSEL Resources (cont)

- Public web space: public_html in home directory
- http://csel.cs.colorado.edu/~<username>
- Personal MySQL databases, accessible only from within CSEL infrastructure (workstations or ssh servers)
- See the FAQ on the website for information on how to create/manage databases
- https://csel.cs.colorado.edu/ -> FAQ -> MySQL Databases
CSEL Accounts

• Account activation: https://sac.colorado.edu
  • Select CSEL, use identikey, takes 30 seconds

• Who can create an account?
  • All CSEN majors/minors/grads
  • Non-majors/minors in certain classes

• Account duration
  • Majors/minors/grads - 24/7 during all years at CU
  • Non-majors in certain classes - 24/7 only during semester of class
CSEL Accounts (cont.)

- Must reactivate account every semester
  - For security purposes
  - Again, through https://sac.colorado.edu
- Card access
  - Automatic 15 minutes after account activation
- Error 301 "not eligible" when activating an account
- Rosters update nightly, try again tomorrow
- Problem persists, email: trouble@csel.cs.colorado.edu
Using the CSEL

- Need help with account? Card Access? Need new software installed?
  - Email: trouble@csel.cs.colorado.edu
  - Visit Chris or Ali in ECOT 727
- Information on website FAQ: https://csel.cs.colorado.edu
- Funded by
  - Departmental funds, student fees
  - University grants, Dean of Engineering, and others
- Protect the equipment your student funds help buy. Respect the labs!
Fun things in the CSEL

- ACM International Programming Contest!
- ACM Halo Tournaments
- Movie nights
- and more...
Q&A

With

Ken, Lesley and our student representatives

Any questions?