Proposal to Revise CMSC122 Course Restrictions
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CMSC122

CMSC122 is an introductory course targeted at non-CS majors, titled *An Introduction to Computer Programming via the Web*, and fulfills a university General Education requirement. While some students end up continuing into CMSC131 and other courses, for many student CMSC122 is their only CS class. The course is currently restricted to students who have not completed any courses in the CMSC131-499 range, which includes the standard introductory sequence for CS majors and all upper-level undergraduate classes.

The problem and the proposal

Some students are taking CMSC122 and CMSC131 concurrently, which does not violate the current restrictions for CMSC122. However, if a student is qualified to take CMSC131 (meaning the student meets the Math140 co-requisite) and wants to register for the class, there is no reason to take CMSC122 at the same time. We have some evidence that there are students with programming experience take CMSC122 concurrently with CMSC131, which skews the class grades and the course teaching level. The course is targeted at students without programming experience, who are taking the course as their only and/or first CS class. With the increasing number of students in our classes, it is especially important to keep students out of CMSC122 who do not need the instruction provided in the class.

The proposal is to revise the restrictions to not permit students to take CMSC122 concurrently with any course in the CMSC131-499 range, nor after having taken any of those courses.