Proposal to Change Course Enrollment Policy for CS Minors
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CS Minor

The CS Minor is an option for non-CS majors, whose goal is to “complement and enhance any student’s major program of study” (from the Undergraduate Catalog). The minor has the same introductory course requirements as the major, but students only have to take two 400-level CS courses, instead of the seven required for the major.

The problem and the proposal

When the CS minor was created several years ago, CS major numbers were relatively low. The proposal to create the minor stated that CS minors would have the same priority for getting into classes as CS majors. That policy is now a problem, because of our very large, and quickly increasing, number of majors. We would like to give priority for enrolling into CS classes to CS majors, before CS minors are allowed to enroll. We currently give priority to CS majors and minors over other students, by requiring department permission (through our advisors) to enroll in all CS classes that are required for the major or minor (those in the CMSC131-499 range). We are having difficulty in providing all the classes CS majors need to make progress toward graduation, especially in the 400-level classes, so giving CS majors priority in enrollment will give them a better chance to get the classes they need before CS minors can fill up the classes.

The proposal is to give CS course enrollment priority to CS majors over CS minors, with CS minors still having priority over other students. The mechanism for doing that is to stagger the dates that permissions are given to the students to enroll, and not giving CS minors permissions until all CS majors have been allowed to register for their classes by the registrar. Similarly, students who are not majors or minors will not be given permission to enroll until after minors are give time to register for CS classes, as is currently done.