Computer Engineering Program Change for Operating Systems Class
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The Problem

Computer Engineering is a joint program between the Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Computer Science departments. Similar to our increases in the number undergraduate majors, computer engineering has also been experiencing increasing enrollments over the last several years. That is because, while engineering overall has limited enrollment, once a student is accepted into engineering, she/he can choose any engineering major, including computer engineering.

Computer Engineering majors are required to take the same introductory Computer Science courses as our majors (CMSC131, CMSC132, CMSC216, CMSC250, CMSC330, CMSC351), and then must take CMSC412 (Operating Systems) and one additional 400-level Computer Science class. All of that is in addition to other required courses offered by the ECE department.

We have not been able to accommodate all Computer Engineering students in CMSC412 several times over the last few semesters, so because it is a graduation requirement we have worked out with ECE ad hoc solutions each semester (typically allowing students to take CMSC417 or CMSC430 instead). Continuing to do that is not an option, because it will endanger the Computer Engineering program’s accreditation status with ABET.

ECE has resurrected their Operating Systems course that has not been offered in recent years, ENEE447, and plans to offer it in spring 2016 and in subsequent years. ECE professor Bruce Jacob will teach the course in spring 2016, and is discussing how to teach it with CS faculty who teach CMSC412. A syllabus for ENEE447 is included with this proposal.

Proposed Change to the Computer Engineering Program

The proposed program change is to allow Computer Engineering majors to fulfill their Operating Systems requirement by taking either CMSC412 or ENEE447.

The change also requires that we change the CMSC412 course description to not allow a student to get credit for both CMSC412 and ENEE447. Students will also be limited to two total attempts to take both courses.