Prerequisite Change for CMSC434, Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction
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The Problem

While the PSYC100 prerequisite predates many of us, the original idea was that it would ensure some background in concepts related to HCI such as human cognition, human perception, and human-oriented experimental evaluation. In practice, however, this prerequisite has not been enforced in recent years by the department. This discrepancy between course catalog description and implementation is not only confusing but potential inequitable, favoring those few who know to ask to bypass the prerequisite. Moreover, the 434 course has evolved since the PSYC100 prerequisite was established – it is no longer clear if the PSYC100 syllabus fulfills its intended goals for 434 preparation. Thus, the HCI faculty suggest changing the catalog language to name PSYC100 as a recommended course but no longer an official prerequisite.

Proposed Prerequisite Change

We propose to remove the prerequisite of PSYC100 from CMSC434, instead listing in the catalog description as recommended.