
Community College Corner

Revising the Guidelines for Associate-Degree Transfer Curriculum in Computer Science

Elizabeth K. Hawthorne

The ACM Two-Year College Education Committee (TYCEC) is finalizing revisions to its computer science transfer curriculum in conjunction with the five-year interim review of the CS2001 volume. These 2008 transfer guidelines will update the *Guidelines for Associate Degree Programs in Computer Science* published in 2003 by ACM and IEEE-CS. The committee also extends a warm welcome to our newest member recruited to assist with this undertaking, Assistant Professor Anita M. Wright of Camden County College, Blackwood, NJ.

The public draft of the proposed *2008 Guidelines for Associate-Degree Transfer Curriculum in Computer Science* was unveiled in a Birds-of-a-Feather session at the SIGCSE 2008 Technical Symposium in Portland, Oregon. The TYCEC is requesting your feedback in order to improve these transfer guidelines. We welcome your expert comments at our community Wiki -<http://wiki.acmtyc.org/> -where an online copy of the proposed guidelines is also available. This updated curriculum is scheduled for final publication later in 2008.

The committee's revised transfer guidelines include, but are not limited to the following features:

- Inclusion of student performance outcomes reflecting updated content for the CS I, CS II, and CS III course sequence.
- Explicit progressive integration of security, software engineering, HCI, ethics and professionalism topics in the three-course sequence.
- Shift from three computing paradigms to a blended approach with emphasis on OOP.
- Discussion of student assessment at the program and course levels.
- Updated mathematics recommendations.
- Expanded list of computing and mathematics elective courses.
- Relationship to the computer science Body of Knowledge and Computing Ontology.
- Expanded Blooms' Taxonomy to include both cognitive and affective domains.

- Discussion of accreditation issues.
- Articulation considerations with the CS2008 baccalaureate curriculum guidelines.

Professor Anita M. Wright is representing the TYCEC on the special advisory group for the interim review of the CS2001 volume that is working towards the publication of CS2008. Professor Wright has a strong academic background as well as extensive industry experience. Anita coordinated the computer science department at Camden County College for two years, and presently teaches a wide variety of computing courses on campus and online: Computer Science I (algorithms), Computer Science II (data structures), structured programming, C programming, object-oriented programming and design using C++, Alice, XML and related technologies, Visual Basic, and computer literacy. In addition, Anita has taught computing and programming courses for Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ and at Peirce College in Philadelphia, PA.

Anita holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Computer Science with a specialization in mathematics and science from Rutgers University, as well as a Master of Science degree in Computer Science from Villanova University. Her Master's research project involved *Using ADA for Real-Time Systems Design*. Before making a career move into academia, Anita was employed as a computer scientist for ten years at Computer Science Corp. in Moorestown, NJ, where she worked on several real-time embedded software systems including the AEGIS (integrated naval combat system) and BSY-2 (nuclear submarine combat system) projects. The TYCEC is very excited and pleased to have Professor Wright as our newest committee member. Welcome aboard Anita!

Elizabeth K. Hawthorne
Chair, ACM Two-Year College
Education Committee

Distance Education

Online Courses: North Carolina Business and IT Courses - A Case Study

Judith Gal-Ezer

Deborah Seehorn, of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction aroused my curiosity and interest when I met her a few months ago at one of the CSTA (The