

Computer Science Department

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To: Professor Ben Williams, FEC Chair

From: Richard Korf, Vice Chair for Undergraduate Programs, Computer Science
Department
Mario Gerla, Chair of Computer Science Department



Date: May 9, 2017



Re: CS and CS&E Curriculum Change, Request for Approval

We propose a change to the Computer Science and Computer Science & Engineering majors to change the Physics 4AL and 4BL requirement to Physics 4AL *or* 4BL, to be effective Fall of 2017.

This issue was first raised by our students. They felt that the labs were superfluous to their computer science education, and too much work for the 2 units of credit they were awarded. The undergraduate program committee reviewed the issue, both with regard to the relevance of the labs, and the impact on ABET accreditation. Given that the students already take three 5-unit lecture courses in physics, the undergraduate program committee agreed that the labs were not essential. From the perspective of ABET, we felt that we needed to require at least one of the labs. Thus, we recommended reducing the requirement to one lab, and letting the students choose between 4AL (mechanics) or 4BL (electricity and magnetism). The 4-person undergraduate program committee was unanimous in recommending this change to the faculty. It was discussed at a faculty retreat on April 28, 2017, and the result of a subsequent faculty vote was 22 Yes, 4 No, and 2 Abstain.

We are also lowering our required number of units with this change. The Computer Science major will require 177 units, and the Computer Science and Engineering major will require 178 units, effective Fall of 2017, should this change be approved.

We appreciate your kind consideration.