

CSCI 401 – Ethics and Professional Issues in Computing

Academic Affairs Sample Syllabus for Proposed New Course

Course Information

Instructor: TBD

Textbook: *Ethics for the Information Age*, 7th Edition by Michael J. Quinn. ISBN 978-0-13-429654-8.

Supplemental texts and materials will be provided in the course Moodle site.

Course Description

(3 credits) This course examines ethical and professional issues in the computing disciplines. Topics include the ACM Code of Ethics, general moral responsibilities, privacy, security, intellectual property, career preparation, job search strategies, and methods of evaluating salary and benefit offers. Students will complete all necessary curriculum assessments required to maintain the currency and quality of academic programs offered by the Department of Computing Sciences. This course is intended to be taken during the final regular semester prior to graduation. F, S.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
2. Understand codes of professional conduct for computing professionals.
3. Explore principles and practices for secure and ethical computing.
4. Evaluate the different impacts of computing on various entities, including individuals, societies, and the whole planet.
5. Work in a team to develop lifelong learning skills.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of general computing skills and theories via the Senior Exit Exam.

Assessment

This course assesses the following Performance Indicators as part of the Department of Computing Sciences ABET accreditation process:

- 3.1 - Communicate with clarity.
- 3.2 - Explain a topic completely.
- 3.3 - Present a topic with proper mechanics.
- 3.4 –Produce documentation and/or citations that support a communication artifact.
- 4.2 - Identify a violation of a professional code of ethics.
- 4.3 –Recognize professional responsibilities.

- 4.4 - Demonstrate an awareness of security and information assurance considerations.
- 5.1 - Contributes relevant information to the team.
- 5.2 - Participates in group activities according to expectations.

Course Activities

Course activities may vary from semester to semester and between sections, depending upon guest speaker availability.

- Lectures, both live (in person or streaming) and recorded (video).
- Quizzes.
- Readings.
- Written technical documentation assignment, resume, and cover letter.
- Student presentations (both live and recorded).
- Mock interviews with Career Services.
- Presentations from guest speakers and Computing Sciences alumni/ae.

Graded Items

[AA NOTE: The weight of each graded item will be determined by the professor teaching the course in a regular semester.]

- Ethics quizzes.
- Technical vocabulary quizzes.
- Live audience presentation (in person or streaming) detailing a real-world disaster or human fatality directly caused by a computer software or system failure.
- Video presentation (recorded) reflecting on courses taken, lessons learned, and academic success strategies. This video will be shared with freshmen in introductory CSCI courses.
- Written technical documentation for a system or piece of software, using correct technical terminology.
- Personal resume and sample cover letter.
- Career Services interaction experience to include mock interviews.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity must be maintained at all times – both inside and outside the classroom. All work is individual unless specifically instructed otherwise. All students must complete an academic integrity exam with a score of 100% prior to accessing the first graded assignment. All students have taken an Honor Pledge. Any violations of the Code of Student Conduct will not be tolerated and handled in strict accordance to University guidelines. The instructor will submit a grade of an FX for any student in violation of the Code of Conduct.

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the Student Code of Conduct available from <https://www.coastal.edu/conduct/>.

Academic Integrity Code

Coastal Carolina University Code of Student Conduct establishes the rights and responsibilities of students attending the University. As such, expectations are established, and students are held accountable for academic honesty and integrity. Please note the following excerpts:

Statement of Community Standards - Coastal Carolina University is an academic community that expects the highest standards of honesty, integrity and personal responsibility. Members of this community are accountable for their actions and are committed to creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust.

Prohibited Conduct

- Plagiarism, cheating, attempted cheating and all other forms of academic dishonesty. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following: borrowing words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples and/or organization of an assignment without proper acknowledgment from a source (for example, a book, article, electronic document or another student's paper); submitting another person's work in place of one's own; allowing someone else to revise, correct or edit an assignment without explicit permission of the instructor; submitting work without proper acknowledgment from commercial firms, websites, fraternity or sorority files, or any other outside sources, whether purchased or not; allowing another person to substitute any part of a course for a student, including quizzes, tests and final examinations; submitting any written assignments done with the assistance of another without the explicit permission of the instructor; submitting work that was originally prepared for another class without the explicit permission of the instructor; and knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in plagiarism. Examples of cheating and attempted cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: using or intending to use unauthorized information, materials or assistance of any kind for an assignment, quiz, test or final examination; knowingly aiding or attempting to aid another student who is engaged in cheating.
- Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member or University office to obtain academic advantage.
- Forging, altering or misusing any University document or record to obtain academic advantage.