Development of an LAC Tier III Independent Inquiry
Course in Computer Science

2011 Summer Curriculum Development Report

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1. Project Summary

The project was completed as proposed and the objectives achieved, resulting in the development of a modified course that integrates the LAC Tier III Independent Inquiry with the writing-intensive requirement for computer science. The new description for the course is as follows:

As the culminating capstone of the liberal arts curriculum, this course offers students the opportunity to reflect on and apply knowledge and skills acquired in the first two tiers and in computer science. The focus is to engage in independent inquiry, to apply critical thinking to solving specific problems in computer science, and to reflect on this effort as an outcome of the liberal arts education. Students will study the process and methodologies in computer science research. Presentation of research results and writing of research papers are required. This course also fulfills the final stage of the writing-intensive requirement for the major.

Here are the activities completed for the project:

- A syllabus is developed for the course. (See attached)
- The writing requirements and assignments are defined.
- The content of the course is produced.
- Assessment methods are drafted.
- The Administrative Course Review Form C and Course Modification Form B are completed and to be submitted to the University Curriculum Committee. (See attached)
- The Course Submission Application for the LAC – Tier 3: Independent Inquiry is completed and to be submitted to the Liberal Arts Program Committee. (See attached)

The modified course is scheduled to be offered in spring 2012.

2. Budget Report

The amount of $1,500 funded for this project was used as stipend to compensate partially for the work completed.

3. Attachments

A course syllabus and completed course forms for the University Curriculum Committee and the Liberal Arts Program Committee.