

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTION 1531.16A

From: Chair, Computer Science Department

Subj: AUDIT AND VALIDATION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT COURSES

Ref: (a) ACDEANINST 1531.2xx, The Majors Program

Encl: (1) Validation Request Form

1. Purpose. To specify the Computer Science Department course audit and validation policy, in amplification of Reference (a).

2. Cancellation. COMPSCIDEPTINST 1531.16

3. Background. Audit and validation policy at the US Naval Academy is established on a departmental basis, subject to the general guidelines of Reference (a). To be considered for validation of any course, a midshipman must have had equivalent credited college level classroom course work, or sufficient practical experience within industry, or a high score on the College Board Advanced Placement (AP) exam in the same programming language as the course being validated.

4. General policy:

- a. USNA Computer Science and Information Technology courses may not be audited by midshipmen.
- b. Validations shall be approved or denied by the department chair.
- c. Course validation shall be entered in a midshipman record by the department chair.
- d. Validation for a course may only be attempted once.
- e. Each validation coordinator may establish a single date for administration of the exam.
- f. An AP exam score may validate no more than one course.
- g. The department chair shall verify AP exam scores.

5. Policy concerning validation based on interview and test:

- a. The CS Department will not offer course validation by examination during Plebe Summer.
- b. No validation credit is given for IC210/SI204 based solely on AP Computer Science exam scores.
- c. For IC211: A 4 or 5 on the AP Computer Science "A" exam is sufficient to allow a midshipman to sit for a validation exam, but does not by itself demonstrate enough course content mastery to grant an automatic validation.

- d. The midshipman requesting validation shall submit enclosure (1) to the Senior Academic Advisor via their Academic Advisor.
- e. The Senior Academic Advisor shall:
 - (1) Interview the midshipman to ascertain the scope and nature of the equivalent college level academic or professional experience. The validation attempt shall be terminated if, in the Senior Academic Advisor's judgment, the midshipman is not adequately experienced.
 - (2) Maintain copies of validation exams.
- f. The course coordinator of the most recently completed offering of the course to be validated shall normally act as validation coordinator for that course, but the department chair may assign this responsibility to any faculty member. The validation coordinator shall:
 - (1) Administer, grade and evaluate a written comprehensive examination.
 - (2) For courses that include a significant amount of programming, administer, grade and evaluate a practical examination consisting of course appropriate programming project(s).
 - (3) Send a memorandum to the department chair, with copies to the midshipman's advisor and department senior academic advisor, stating the results of the validation attempt, and give a recommendation for or against validation.
- g. Validation credit may be recommended for a written examination score of 80% or higher, and if required, a practical examination score of 80% or higher.



D. M. NEEDHAM

Computer Science Department Course Validation Request

From: _____ (Name and Alpha Code of midshipman requesting validation)

To: Senior Academic Advisor, Computer Science Department

Via: Academic Advisor of midshipman requesting validation

Subj: REQUEST FOR VALIDATION CREDIT

Ref: (a) COMPSCIDEPTINST 1531.16A

Encl: (1) Supporting Documentation

1. In accordance with reference (a), I respectfully request to be considered for validation credit for (Course Number and Title) _____
2. Enclosure (1) gives documentation regarding my equivalent credited college level classroom course work, or describing my relevant practical experience within industry, or my score on the College Board's Computer Science Advanced Placement (AP) exam in the same programming language as the course being validated.

Signature _____

Date submitted _____

Enclosure (1)