COMPUTER SCIENCE (CSCI)
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

Meet Your Advisor Day 2019

Tuesday 9/10

Deb McGuiness
dlm@cs.rpi.edu

Uzma Mushtaque
mushtu@rpi.edu

Stacy Patterson
pattes3@rpi.edu

Chuck Stewart
stewart@cs.rpi.edu

Bülent Yener
yener@cs.rpi.edu
My information

• Advisor’s Name: Dr. Uzma Mushtaque
• Courses: CS1100, CS1010
• Area of Expertise: Machine Learning, Data Science
• Office address: Aemos Eaton 111
• Phone number/Email: mushtu@rpi.edu
• Office hours: Tuesday and Friday – 12:00 to 1:00 pm
• Best way to reach me: Email OR Office Hours
Stacy’s information

• Advisor’s Name: Dr. Stacy Patterson
• Courses: CSCI 4510
• Area of Expertise: Distributed Systems
• Office address: Lally 301
• Phone number/Email: sep@rpi.edu
• Office hours: Tuesday and Friday – 2-3pm
• Best way to reach me: Email OR Office Hours
Campus resources (reminder)

• Don’t hesitate to contact the following offices:
  • Advising and Learning Assistance Center [alac.rpi.edu]
    • for drop-in tutoring, time management training, individual consultations, etc.
  • Counseling Center [studenthealth.rpi.edu]
    • for stress reduction techniques, help with depression, personal issues, etc.
  • Student Life [studentlife.rpi.edu] and Office of the First-Year Experience [studentlife.rpi.edu/fye]
    • for counseling, mentoring, disability services, minority student affairs, etc.
  • Int’l Services for Students and Scholars (ISSS) [info.rpi.edu/isss]
    • for services designed specifically to help international students
  • Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) [info.rpi.edu/career-development]
    • for career counseling, professional development, résumé and cover letter critiques, career fair information, coops/internships, etc.
The School of Science (SoS) Advising Hub

- The SoS Advising Hub ([science.rpi.edu/hub](http://science.rpi.edu/hub)) is located in JRSC 1C12 and is available to help during normal business hours with:
  - General academic issues
  - Registrar policies and deadlines
  - First- and second-year course selections
  - Preliminary Arch planning (semester away)
  - Forms to add or update a minor
  - Forms to change majors or declare a dual major (within the SoS)
  - Curriculum review and progress toward degree completion
  - Approval of Pass/No Credit (P/NC) forms and transfer credit forms
  - Referrals to other offices, including FYE, Counseling Center, Class Dean
- Meaghan Potter & Jianyou Zhao also work in Amos Eaton 118, the CSCI Student Services Area. You can meet with them here, as well, for assistance with the items above!
Your faculty advisor’s responsibilities

• As your faculty advisor, I will assist you with:
  • Your overall career goals and academic expectations
  • Course selections and alternatives, in particular upper-level CSCI courses
  • Professional opportunities
  • Graduate school opportunities (and letters of recommendation!)
  • Academic or other crises, referring you to other offices as necessary
  • Come to me (or the Hub) if you feel overwhelmed in a course

• Also, you must communicate with me yearly to meet your yearly SAM requirement...

Both faculty and hub advisors are there to help you, sometimes by referring you to other support services across campus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When do I go to my Faculty Advisor for advising?</th>
<th>When do I go to the Science Hub?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Annual Student Advisor Meeting (SAM)</td>
<td>• Overall curriculum advice</td>
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<td>• Select upper-level CS concentration courses</td>
<td>• AP/TR credit guidelines</td>
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<td>• Get involved in research</td>
<td>• Making changes to course schedule</td>
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<td>• Plan Arch away semester</td>
<td>• Add/drop courses</td>
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<td>• Make post-graduation plans</td>
<td>• Make a plan of study</td>
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<td>• Advice about co-term and graduate school</td>
<td>• Most Registrar form signatures</td>
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<td>• Arch summer course planning</td>
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<td>• Study abroad planning</td>
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<td>• Graduation checks (unofficial)</td>
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Your responsibilities as students

Your responsibilities as CSCI students are:

- Develop your academic plan, monitor your academic progress, and keep up with your coursework!
- Prepare questions regarding your curriculum and course selections, career options, etc. (to discuss with your faculty and Hub advisors)
- It is up to you to make sure you fulfill all degree requirements required for you to graduate
Computer science course requirements

• The accompanying Class of 2023 template details all of our curriculum requirements.
  • This is only a template (so students do not always follow the template exactly as shown).
  
• Also note the following useful URLs:
  • catalog.rpi.edu – contains academic rules and regulations, graduation requirements, course descriptions, etc.
  • yacs.cs.rpi.edu – built by RCOS students, a course schedule planning tool that helps students construct schedules each semester.
  • sis.rpi.edu – the student information system through which students register for courses; also has links for communication-intensive courses, topics/non-catalog courses, transfer courses, etc.

Use Degree Works!

This is your template. Do not use any other class year template!
Dual majors and minors

- Dual majors combine CSCI with another major; for example:
  - Information Technology and Web Science (ITWS)
  - Engineering (BMED, CHME, ECSE, etc.)
  - Science (BIOL, CHEM, MATH, PHYS, etc.)
  - HASS (EMAC, GSAS, PSYC, COGS, etc.)
  - Business and Management (BMGT)

- Requirements for minors vary from one department to another, but typically consist of 4-5 courses

- This semester, go to the department offices or Hubs for the other majors to review their curriculum templates, sign up for the dual major, minor, etc.

Although dual major templates exist, be sure to meet the curriculum requirements of each individual major!
Data Structures...

- If you are taking CSCI 1200 Data Structures now and find that you are overwhelmed, do not panic!
  - You can switch to CSCI 1100 Computer Science I over the next two weeks
  - (You’re not the only one who’ll make this switch.)
  - Speak with someone at the School of Science Advising Hub (JRSC 1C12)

Do your best to decide by Friday 9/20 (because CS I exam 1 is Thursday 9/26)
Resources to help with your math course

• Check out these online resources for assistance and tutoring with MATH 1010, MATH 1020, MATH 2010, and MATH 2400:
  • calculus.math.rpi.edu/CalculusHelp.html

• Remember to attend your mentor session (ask questions!)

• And all quizzes count toward your final course grade
Humanities, Arts, and Social Science (HASS)

- HASS courses have the following prefixes:
  - ARTS, COGS, COMM, ECON, GSAS, IHSS, LANG, LITR, PHIL, PSYC, STSH, STSS, WRIT

- You are required to take an Interdisciplinary HASS (IHSS) inquiry course in your first year (fall or spring semester)
  - These are smaller classes (~25 students) only open to first-year students
  - They serve as a basis for further work in engineering and the sciences, as well as in humanities, arts, and social sciences
  - Inquiry courses are listed here: [info.rpi.edu/hass-inquiry/fall-2019-courses](http://info.rpi.edu/hass-inquiry/fall-2019-courses)

- You are required to take three Integrative Pathways courses:
  - [info.rpi.edu/hass-pathways/pathways-topics](http://info.rpi.edu/hass-pathways/pathways-topics)
ALAC Resources

- Visit ALAC in Academy Hall 4266 (or call them at 518-276-6269)
- Drop-in tutoring has started – Mon/Tue/Wed/Thu evenings:
  
  info.rpi.edu/advising-learning-assistance/learning-assistance/#TutoringServices

- ALAC provides:
  - Learning Assistants (LAs) in the residence halls who will gladly review time management, study, and test-taking skills with you; also there to help you form study groups
  - Learning Specialists (in ALAC) for more focused test-taking, test anxiety, time management, and organizational skills
  - Drop-in tutoring mentioned above
Office of the First-Year Experience (FYE)

• The Office of the First-Year Experience (FYE) offers help to first-year students and new transfer students

• Visit them in Academy Hall 4600, call them at 518-276-6864, or find them online at studentlife.rpi.edu/fye

• The FYE office provides assistance to students in developing time management skills, stress management techniques, how to maintain a healthy lifestyle as a student, etc.

• Also contact FYE to help resolve general problems or discuss your concerns related to your first year here at RPI
Health and Counseling Center

• The Health and Counseling Center is also in Academy Hall
• Check them out online at studenthealth.rpi.edu

• The Health Center (518-276-6287) provides:
  • Medical care
  • Allergy care
  • Health education

• The Counseling Center (518-276-6479) provides:
  • Relaxation training for anxiety
  • Sessions on improving communication skills and study habits
  • Sessions on relating to parents and others
  • Sessions on helping with depression
Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD)

• The Career and Professional Development Center (CCPD) offers employment and professional development services to students
• Visit them in the DCC or call them at 518-276-6234
• Online at info.rpi.edu/career-development
• Career counselors are available for individual consultations to discuss career paths, how to explore job opportunities, perform résumé reviews, etc.
• Contact the CCPD regarding internships, cooperative educational experiences (co-ops), and preparing for your Arch away semester
The 41st Annual NSBE/SHPE Career Fair

• The 41st annual NSBE/SHPE Career Fair is scheduled for Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21 in the Armory
• Go to this event (and the one in the spring)!
• For more details, check out www.rpicareerfair.org
Study abroad information sessions

• Students participate in study abroad programs, typically during sophomore or junior semesters in Australia, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and the UK
• Courses taken are transferable back to RPI
• Watch for information sessions to be scheduled:
  info.rpi.edu/international-programs/study-abroad-and-exchange-opportunities
Advice regarding your life as a student

• Take four courses (typically for a total of 16 credits)
  • You need 12 credits (minimum) to be considered a full-time student
• Study four to six hours every day (*including weekends!*)
• Go to office hours regularly
  • (including professor and TA office hours)
• Participate in extracurricular activities
• Get some sleep!
• Call or email or text or message or Snapchat home every so often....
Schedule time to study!

Typical High School Schedule

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Typical College Schedule

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Opportunities beyond the classroom

- Clubs (over 225 clubs/organizations sponsored by the Union)
- Sports (including Varsity and intramural leagues)
- Greek life (including fraternities, sororities, service fraternities)
- Community service projects
- ROTC
- Study abroad programs
- Coops and internships
- Undergraduate Research Program (URP)
- Rensselaer Center for Open-Source Software (RCOS)
Computer science opportunities

• Computer science clubs/societies include:
  • ACM-W (Women in Computing)
  • Coding && Community
  • Computer Science Club
  • Computer Security Club (RPISEC)
  • HackRPI
  • UPE (and other) honor societies

• They help you gain experience and learn more about computer science topics

• They’re always looking for new members!
Computer science opportunities

• Rensselaer Center for Open Source (RCOS)
  • Group or individual projects
  • Focus on team-based open source software and hardware development
  • Enables freshmen and sophomore to do research (URP)
  • Check out rcos.io

• Undergraduate Research Program (URP)
  • Some professors acquire funding for undergraduate research
  • Most URPs are offered for (free elective) credits
  • Get to know professors and their research by first taking the related courses that they offer
  • Research started as a junior or senior can lead to an M.S. or Ph.D.
Questions?
Welcome New Students Spaghetti Dinner

- Let’s go to dinner now!
- (and we’ll meet again on Tuesday, October 15 at 4:00PM)

Spaghetti Welcome Dinner for New Students in Computer Science!

When: Tuesday, September 10th
Where: Russell Sage Dining Hall
Time: 5:00PM