

# Assignment #1

## Why do you want to major in CS?

### Due: Sunday, 09/24/17, 11:59pm

Some of you know exactly why you want to major in computer science and what kind of job you want to have when you get out into the “real world”, some of you have a vague idea of why you might want to major in CS, some have the “sounds cool” feeling about the major, and some have a friend or family member that suggested it! ☺ Any of the reasons are a valid justification for exploring the major, but ultimately, YOU want to ENJOY your major!!! Since this is an honors class and all of you have to complete a thesis for your honors degree, you will focus on the research areas in computer science that are of interest and disinterest to you.

In this assignment, you will address the following:

- Why do you want to major in computer science?
- Which research areas are of interest to you and why?
- Which research areas are of disinterest to you and why?

#### **(20 pts) Why do you want to major in CS (or chose to take CS 160H)?**

Provide a paragraph explaining why you chose to take the Honors CS Orientation course. For most of you, this is because you are considering majoring in computer science. Describe why you want to major in computer science or learn about the computer science field. Write at least 5 sentences!!!

Read this article: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vinamrata-singal/six-reasons-to-study-computer-science\\_b\\_3714030.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vinamrata-singal/six-reasons-to-study-computer-science_b_3714030.html)

- Can you relate to the article, why or why not?
- How does this change why you might want to study CS?

#### **(80 pts) Which research areas are of interest to you and why?**

As an honors student, you are required to complete a thesis for your honors degree. It is never too early to begin thinking about which research areas in the School of EECS are of interest or disinterest to you to help determine the topic of your thesis. You will use the current research page on the School of EECS website to help guide you with this decision based on what does and doesn't pique your interest. You can find a list of the research areas at <http://eecs.oregonstate.edu/research/research-areas>. You can also find other research areas in CS under the ACM's Special Interest Group page: <http://www.acm.org/sigs/>. For instance, Education is a CS research area, but it is not a formal research area of EECS. ☺

You will use these websites as a starting place, but you need to further investigate the research areas and faculty to make an informed decision and justify your decision. Make sure to explicitly state **WHICH** research areas **pique and do not pique** your interest. It is okay to be unsure and have several areas in CS that excite you or are of disinterest to you, but you need references that helped you better understand **WHY** you

might enjoy or not enjoy this area, company, or topic in computer science beyond the websites provided above.

For your 3 citations in this section, you will use the IEEE format commonly used in computer science: <http://www.ieee.org/documents/ieeecitationref.pdf>

**Paper Requirements:**

- References:  $\geq 3$  (Automatic 10 point deduction if missing these!)
- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, 1" margins
- Spacing: Single
- Pages: 1+
- Make sure to address all 3 questions with justification!

Electronically submit your document **as a pdf** by the assignment due date using TEACH: [https://secure.engr.oregonstate.edu:8000/teach.php?type=want\\_auth](https://secure.engr.oregonstate.edu:8000/teach.php?type=want_auth)