

Policy on Waiving Course Prerequisites

The Policy:

The Chair of the department of Computer and Information Sciences will handle evaluation of each student's readiness for C101, C151 and C201 based on the student's background, experience, and related abilities (e.g., mathematical achievements).

When a student requests admission to a higher level course for which he/she lacks the stated prerequisite(s), the student will be required to write a letter to the Chair explaining in detail why the request should be granted. The Chair will then consult with the instructor of the course in question and one other member of the department to decide whether to grant the request. The instructor of the course into which the admission is being sought will be given the right to veto the student's request.

The reasons for this policy are the following:

- (1) To maintain depth in our program our courses must build on each other. Freely waiving the prerequisites tends to weaken our courses if students who have not taken the pre-requisites are allowed to slow the pace of the classes.
- (2) Faculty involvement with these requests makes us constantly reconsider whether the pre-requisites we have imposed are reasonable, or should perhaps be changed.

Adopted 8/24/93

Reaffirmed 5/3/2002

Department of Computer and Information Sciences