

Advanced Topics in Computer Science

Background

I am very excited to be offering this course, as it has been a professional goal of mine for some time. The inspiration is a course from a previous school called *Form and Function*. Ideas for wood-based projects were gathered from members of the school, and then the students in the course would work with those folks to design and build the requested projects. The resulting physical objects lived in classrooms and around campus as beautiful and utilitarian artifacts of the students' learning. Lecterns, bookshelves, tables, chairs, desks, bins, and even giant staircases were all woven into the fabric of the campus. *Advanced Topics...* is *Form and Function* for the Digital Age.

Overview

This is a transformative opportunity for students to **collaborate** with their teachers and other community members to **confidently** and **independently** build unique, useful, production-level tools designed with empathy and **compassion** to make lives and work easier, or to improve some learning experience for future students. The students will develop a development and deployment timeline and **honor** the commitments made to their clients.

Request

My ask of you is straightforward: let us know what your ideas are. Below you'll find a link to a form for submitting a project idea. No technical expertise is required for this. Simply describe what you want the thing to do and what form it takes in your mind—an app for a phone, an add-on to Teams, a browser extension, a program that runs on your computer, website, etc. The more vivid the description, the better, but no need for anything lengthy.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BWj9sMoZq0SQ8dEGb2pB3DnQQmo6PFJBr8AB2lhgCYpUNFdMUTFaTEZXQVM1WjNEOFdJUzJNUkU0OC4u>

Follow-up

At some point, I'll reach out to you about your idea to let you know we've received it, and to perhaps ask a few questions to make sure I understand what it is you want. Once the class is underway and the students have their feet underneath them, they will be reaching out to you to begin their process. The assignment of projects will be determined by timeframe, student interest, student ability, and student availability.

Finally

One final note, there is no deadline here. We will be accepting project ideas on a rolling basis. It'd be fantastic to have a huge pile of ideas from which to choose at the start of the year, of course, but I'll be sending out periodic reminders of the program and calls for ideas.

On behalf of the future ATCS students, thanks for taking the time to read this, for surfacing those ideas, and for maybe even jotting one down in the form.