

I Don't Belong

On the first day of practice, Noah caught every ball that was thrown to him. Travis was able to break away and score on the best goalie in the mountain west. Jordan won every single face off he put his stick down for. Dexter managed to make 27 passes that were over 30 yards long. I caught the ball twice. In two hours, I managed to keep the ball in the pocket of my stick two times. Clearly I'm not good enough to play lacrosse.

Of the nearly one hundred people in the lecture hall, Spencer was asking questions three or four times every day. Jeremiah stayed after class to talk to the professor each and every day. Whenever Kurt was called on "randomly" he always had the perfect answer. The professor would ask a question of the room at large and everyone was able to parrot back the correct answer. Except for me. Clearly I don't belong in computer science.

I tried out for the esports team and was able to play for three practices before they told me "someone else wants to play and they have a higher rank than you." Clearly I'm not good enough for the Overwatch team.

I practiced with the triathlon team where Ryan told me "you should be running forty miles every week." I was able to run five, so I clearly don't belong on the triathlon team.

The first time I heard about Imposter Syndrome was when friends from grad school sat down to help me develop healthy mental habits in order to be successful in my studies. Even from the name itself, I think it should be pretty easy for you to guess what imposter syndrome is, but in case you don't want to be wrong, allow me to share with you this most curious mental blockage.

The field of computer science is vast and has incredible breadth in the topics that are a part of the field. Computer vision, natural language processing, recurrent neural networks, electron hardware traps, mobile software development, and computability theory are subjects so disjointed, they're almost unrelated. When browsing online material related to computing though, all of these subjects are represented. This gives the strong impression that everyone in the field of computer science knows all of these unrelated subjects.

But you don't know them all. Or at least I know that I don't know all of them.