**Overview**

AP Scholars is a free course that prepares motivated high school students for the Advanced Placement® Computer Science A exam. AP Scholars is developed and taught by current Computer Science Engineering students at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, as part of a project by CSE Scholars, which is where the name stems from. AP Scholars specifically targets high school students in the greater Ann Arbor area, who have an interest in computers (whether it be general computing or programming), math, or engineering, and are very self-motivated. No prior programming knowledge is necessary, but students should be familiar enough with computers to be able to install and learn new software when given basic directions.

Rather than being a transposed entry-level “CS101” course, AP Scholars is custom written for the Java-based AP exam and consists of lessons, homework assignments, and projects specifically designed to expose students to the types of questions on the AP exam, not a CS101 final.

AP Scholars will consist of both online lectures in the form of videos and slides, as well as occasional in-person lessons, reviews, and question/answer sessions which may take place at either participating high schools or at the University of Michigan, depending on enrollment numbers. There are also multiple graded written homework assignments and Java programming projects. The course begins in October 2012 and will prepare students for the May 2013 exam.

**Goals**

A student taking the course and actively putting in effort to complete assignments with quality work will be able to pass the AP CS A exam. AP Scholars will cover specific types of problems that are common on the exam, including the “Gridworld” free response questions. That being said, AP Scholars does not only “teach to the test,” and in some cases we will go above and beyond the AP course description to provide a better and more complete understanding of the material, which will make it easier for the students to pass the AP exam when the time comes. At no point will any topic be oversimplified for the sake of not wanting to give an explanation.

Additionally, students will get graded feedback on all of their assignments, however unless specifically asked we will not assign any final course grade, since as this is a voluntary extracurricular program, giving a grade doesn’t have much meaning. Should a student choose to take an Independent Study or similar course at their school in which they require some sort of grade or rating, we can work with him/her to provide a reasonable course score based on his/her unique situation.