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Intro to ITWS, (ITWS 1100)

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**Goals and Expectations for this Class**

As a Computer Science student, I have always felt that given the selection of courses RPI has to offer, my education would still not be complete. While Computer Science is an amazing major that has the ability to open a plethora of doors in my future professional career, there is some experience that I feel would be lacking upon completion of college. Computer Science is the study of the principles of computers: the theory of how and why computers work, practicing “good” programming techniques, and learning about various languages. However, we never are actually taught how to properly “apply” this knowledge. Sure, we are taught the inner machinations of, and how to design, various data structures, and we are taught about how the computer functions at the most basic level. But despite all this, we are never shown how writing a lot of code directly translates to a fully function application, complete with graphics and interactive elements. Nor are we shown about how and why the internet works, or how websites are made. All of this additional knowledge is available to learn through online resources, but in the course of completing a Computer Science major, it is never formally taught.

It is for that above reason that I am taking Intro to ITWS. My goal is to not only complete this course, but to continue further into my understanding of IT development by pursuing a dual major. I feel that a Computer Science degree allows me to understand the nitty gritty of programming and gives me the tools and knowledge to work with whatever tasks come my way, and that an ITWS degree allows me to bridge that forgotten gap between writing code and applying that Computer Science knowledge to creating a viable product. I also look forward to learning about the business side of software. I always thought it would be neat to work at a startup or even create my own. In order to do this, I would need to have a working knowledge of the IT realm. Pursuing a dual degree in ITWS is also quite fitting for a Computer Science. There is a lot of overlap, which means there will often be many parallels between courses and I get to fully understand how and why various programming principles translate from the development of software into the final product.

Additionally, ever since I was a young I was always fascinated with the web. I loved reading books on HTML and web development, and even attempted at building my own HTML sites in TextEdit and Notepad. Aside from seeing a dual degree in ITWS as filling that missing knowledge gap from my Computer Science studies, I also just simply want to learn more programming and web technologies (such as Javascript, PHP, etc.) in a more formal learning environment. In the end, I believe I will become a much better and wholesome developer.