## Project Proposal

**Project Information**

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| **Project:** | [PROJECTNAME](http://readyset.tigris.org/nonav/templates/index.html) |
| **Project Time-frame:** | 2003/1/16 to 2003/3/19 |
| **Summary:** | 2-4 SENTENCE SUMMARY |
| **Attached Worksheets:** | Project Proposal > [Target audience and benefits](http://readyset.tigris.org/nonav/templates/target-and-benefits.html) |
| **Related Documents:** | [Project plan](http://readyset.tigris.org/nonav/templates/plan.html) > [Resource needs](http://readyset.tigris.org/nonav/templates/resource-needs.html)  [Glossary](http://readyset.tigris.org/nonav/templates/glossary.html) |

**Process impact:** This proposal, along with drafts of related documents, will be used by management to determine whether or not to approve work on this project. A clear and precise project plan helps set expectations that will be used later to evaluate the success of the project.

Summer 20

Spring 35

Winter 32

Fall 31

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Drexel/comments/nnouto/so_does_drexel_just_purposely_not_provide_enough/>

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Drexel/comments/h00ggx/i_heard_its_difficult_to_register_for_classes_you/>

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Drexel/comments/35nabq/summer_course_options_suck/>

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Drexel/comments/hd5jac/why_the_hell_are_there_so_few_courses_available/>

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Drexel/comments/mbtc2a/classes_during_summer/>

Background and Motivation

Drexel University’s students have enjoyed 104 years of participation in the co-op program, and in that time Drexel has grown and gained recognition as one of the country’s premier universities for such an experience. Drexel is known for its co-op program, and is a major reason why students choose to attend. Since 2013, students interested in any field under the Computer Science umbrella are enrolled in Drexel’s College of Computing and Informatics (CCI), which rolled together majors from other colleges such as computer science, data science and information sciences into one college with its own professors, advisors and funding. For the 2021-2022 school year, 97% of CCI students were employed by a co-op, making it a fundamental part of student life at Drexel.

Not only is it a fundamental part of the student life, but it is integral to their schedules as well. When enrolling at Drexel, students have a choice between 3 scheduling options: a standard 4-year university experience with no co-op, a 4-year 1 co-op cycle schedule and the most popular 5-year 3 co-op cycle schedule. Most students enroll in the 5 year program because they want to maximize their co-op experience. The 5 year schedule is broken down into 10-week quarters (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer) instead of 15-17 week semesters, which means the total schedule can be broken down as such:

X = Co-op

O = Clases

F W Sp Su

Year 1 O O O -

Year 2 X X O O

Year 3 X X O O

Year 4 X X O O

Year 5 O O O –

In this example, a student with this schedule has been automatically placed in the Fall/Winter co-op cycle by the University. The student has no choice, they are placed there by chance and for some majors they are forced to be in either a Fall/Winter or Spring/Summer co-op cycle. Ideally, it should not be such a problem as either placement should not affect the student’s academic goals, however it generally does in the case of CCI students. The amount of major-specific classes offered in the Summer term for Computer Science students is alarmingly low. It forces students in the Fall/Winter co-op cycle to load up on all of their necessary courses in the Spring because it may not be available in the following term, leading to severe burnout and all of the ramifications of that. It also gives no wiggle room if a student needs to retake a course, or if a student takes a leave of absence since their necessary classes are only available for one quarter. Additionally, because of how Computer Science majors are required to take 2 “tracks” of classes in order to graduate, several of those tracks may not be possible with classes in summer term because of the lack of availability. This means that students who are placed in the Fall/Winter co-op cycle are placed there with no other option, and then given very little options for the classes they want to take for half of the time they are given to take classes.

Goal

If the University is going to automatically place students in either co-op cycle, they should also ensure that all major-specific classes are equally available to all students regardless of their cycle placement. In order to do so, it should hire more professors or use adjunct professors in order to open up more course availability. The end-goal is to increase course availability for students in summer term to make it equal to that of the other 3 terms.

Scope

The scope of this project should be small but make a noticeable difference for students. Hiring more professors, using adjunct professors or incentivizing current professors to teach over the summer should be more of a matter of small salary budgets than any of the other large-scale operations that Drexel is currently undertaking like the construction projects around the Schuylkill river.

Deliverables

The goal is to deliver more options for computer science classes for computer science students in the summer, so that they are not limited for 50% of the time they are in class.

Risks

There is little-to-no risk in proceeding with this project other than shifting budgets for more professors in the summer.