

Placement Mechanisms in CSCI 203

Students who have had experience in computer programming with the Java programming language require careful placement in the CSCI 203-204 course sequence. The mechanisms to deal with these cases are the following:

The instructor identifies these students during the first class and schedules a conference with the student. The conference should allow the instructor to have some idea of the student's grasp of the following topics:

- Boolean expressions
- Arithmetic expressions
- Repetition structures--while and do
- 1- and 2-dimensional arrays
- Object use--given an object and use of libraries
- Classes and objects—defining
- Parameter passage
- Object construction
- Constructors and methods-defining, referencing, and constructing
- Methods and method calling
- Inheritance
- Gui-using libraries or building
- Preconditions and postconditions
- Software standards-elementary features consistently required

Based on the results of the conference the instructor should recommend one of the following:

Case 1: Stay in CSCI 203

Case 2: Half way - If the student has command of some of the material in the CSCI 203 syllabus presented in the early weeks of the course.

The instructor may excuse the student from **lectures** in CSCI 203 for a well-defined number of weeks (to be determined according to how much of the material the student has understood).

The student is still responsible for attending and completing laboratories and for completing programming assignments by their due dates.

Case 3: Try CSCI 204 - The student seems to have command of all the material in the CSCI 203 syllabus and the student seems ready for CSCI 204. (Unix experience may be a weak point.)

The student should attend lectures and laboratories for both CSCI 203 and CSCI 204 for the first two weeks. The CSCI 203 instructor assigns the student a project that tests the student's understanding of the main concepts of the course that the student is required to complete by the Friday before the end of the Drop/Add period.

On the Monday before the end of the Drop/Add period, the instructor meets with the student and recommends a course of action. If the student is considered proficient in CSCI 203, the instructor recommends dropping CSCI 203 and adding CSCI 204. Otherwise, the student receives a recommendation to attend CSCI 203 regularly or under the provisions of the mechanism for *Case 1*, described above.

The instructor should notify the student's advisor who will write a letter to the Registrar indicating CSCI 203 has been waived as a degree requirement and will be replaced by an additional 300- or 400-level computer science elective.