

**College of Computer and Information Science**  
**Policy on General Electives**  
**Updated June 6, 2007**

A general elective is defined as any course offered in the day program on the Boston campus, *except for those types of courses specifically excluded in this section*. Each Computer and Information Science student must complete as many hours of general elective course work as is required by the particular degree program that the student is pursuing. Typically, this is done by successfully completing 4 semester hour courses of your choosing, subject to the following conditions:

1. Courses offered *away from the Northeastern day program*, such as evening courses in SPCS or courses at other colleges and universities, are generally **not transferable** either as general electives or to satisfy degree requirements. *You must obtain written permission in advance for any exceptions.*
2. Courses offered by the School of Engineering Technology or by the Lowell Institute **may not be taken as general electives or to satisfy requirements for any degree program** in the College of Computer and Information Science.
3. General electives may include a **maximum of eight 1-semester hour courses**, such as music lessons or physical education courses, to satisfy a maximum of two 4-semester hour general electives, provided there are no more than four total credit hours in music or in physical education courses.
4. You may take a general elective course *pass/fail* beginning in your fourth in-school semester, but *at most one per semester*. In addition, over the course of your program, *you may take at most two courses total pass/fail*. Finally, *required courses may never be taken pass/fail nor may courses that fulfill explicit degree requirements*. Note that, although the college permits you to take courses pass/fail subject to the above restrictions, the college also discourages the use of the pass/fail option since we believe that you will learn more when you take a course for a normal grade.
5. **The following types of courses may NOT be used as general electives for degree requirements:**
  - Courses offered outside the college on *programming or programming languages*. This includes courses in Java, Javascript, C#, Visual Basic, C, C++, PERL, Python, Ruby, COBOL, etc.
  - Courses offered outside the college *whose material overlaps with content normally taught within the college* such as software design and development, web development, operating systems, database systems, networks, algorithmics, etc. If there is a situation of potential overlap, *seek explicit permission in advance*.
  - Courses offered outside the college *whose material substantially overlaps with content taught in required courses or in courses already taken*. This includes the following philosophy courses that discuss elementary logic: PHL U114 and PHL U115.
  - As of Spring 2008, the college will introduce *CS U290 Logic and Computation* which will replace *PHL U215 Symbolic Logic* in the requirements for all degree programs. From that semester onwards, students will not be permitted to take PHL U215 since that would constitute an overlap with CS U290.
  - Courses which are *more elementary than required courses*, such as English Language Center courses and pre-calculus or other remedial mathematics courses, *except with explicit permission*.
  - Certain other courses, such as ROTC courses.

*Check with an advisor for additional information. In borderline situations, ask for written permission in advance from the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education to take a particular course.*