

**CMPSC 580
Topics and Research Methods in Computer Science
Spring 2015**

Survey of Interests

Please provide answers in as much detail as possible. If there is insufficient room on the survey for you to neatly write your answers, create an electronic document to hold your responses.

1. Which computer science course that you've taken, either at Allegheny or elsewhere, has had the most appeal to you and why? Identify specific topics in this course that were of interest to you and why you liked them.
2. What topic in computer science would you most like to learn more about, and what steps would you take to learn about it if you had to try to learn it on your own? (Be as specific as possible—e.g., do you know names of people who are involved in this area, or are you familiar with publications that deal with this area?)
3. Do you read any computer-related publications (including online publications or newsgroups) on a regular basis? Name them and describe their content. If you know the URL for an online publication that you've named, provide that, too

4. Have you written any complicated computer programs that were either “just for fun” or for some purpose other than meeting a course or a job requirement? Give details.

5. Have you implemented or installed any computer-related systems “just for fun” or for some purpose other than meeting a course or a job requirement? Give details.

6. Of the following activities, which ones do you enjoy? Which ones do think you do well? Elaborate on your answers; free-associate if you’d like; use additional pages for your response.
 - Writing code that meets someone else’s requirements and specifications
 - Writing code to solve problems that you’ve come up with on your own
 - Tracking down information about a topic that’s of interest to you
 - Reading computer-related articles in magazines, either paper or online
 - Explaining computer-related concepts to other people
 - Building or customizing your own computer hardware
 - Something else? What?

7. What are your greatest strengths or most useful skills with respect to proposing and writing a senior thesis?
8. What are the greatest weaknesses or gaps in your knowledge or skills that might hinder you in proposing and writing a senior thesis?
9. Propose at least one (and preferably several) concrete improvements in your study or work habits that you think will improve your chances of doing well in both CMPSC 580 and in your senior thesis. By “concrete” I mean things that can be unambiguously measured to show clear evidence of improvement.
10. Do you have a specific senior project topic in mind already? If so, briefly describe it.