

From: Philip Thomas, Honors Program Director
Date: 5 February 2021
Subject: Honors Credit for 500-Level COMPSCI Courses

This memo provides information for students considering petitioning for a 500-level CICS course to count for honors credit. Note that petitions are submitted via CHC PATHS. The CICS requirements for a 500-level course to be approved for honors credit are:

1. The course must be graduate level. This means that both A) graduate students *must* also be enrolled in the course, and B) the instructor must indicate that the course is graduate level.
2. The *combined* enrollment from all sections of the class that meet simultaneously must be less than or equal to 25 students.
3. The course must be 3 or more credits.

You *may* submit a petition without considering these criteria. However, as honor program director, I have yet to approve any requests that do not meet all three of these criteria, and I have approved all requests that do meet these criteria.

Also, note that 600-level courses automatically count for honors credit and do not require a petition. However, 600-level courses are doctoral level (500-level are not). In general, we recommend that doctoral students only take one or two 600-level courses per semester (see for example the suggested timeline at the bottom of this [page](#)). While talented undergraduate students can succeed in 600-level courses, be prepared for a significantly higher workload in these classes.

You can find additional resources regarding courses for honors credit here:
<https://www.umass.edu/honors/curriculum/courses>.