Outline of Course of Study

Faculty of Engineering Secondary School
Department of Engineering
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Course reviser: Julie Olivier
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Course title: Introduction to Computer Science
Grade: 11
Type: University
Ministry Course Code: ICS3U
Credit value: 1.0 credit
Ministry curriculum policy documents:

- The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 10 to 12: Computer Studies, 2008 (revised)
- Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2016
- Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario's Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12, 2010

Prerequisites and corequisites: none

Course Description

This course introduces students to computer science. Students will design software independently and as part of a team, using industry-standard programming tools and applying the software development life-cycle model. They will also write and use subprograms within computer programs. Students will develop creative solutions for various types of problems as their understanding of the computing environment grows. They will also explore environmental and ergonomic issues, emerging research in computer science, and global career trends in computer-related fields.

Overall Curriculum Expectations

By the end of this course, students will:

A. PROGRAMMING CONCEPTS AND SKILLS	
A1	demonstrate the ability to use different data types, including one-dimensional arrays, in computer programs;
A2	demonstrate the ability to use control structures and simple algorithms in computer programs;
A3	demonstrate the ability to use subprograms within computer programs;
A4	use proper code maintenance techniques and conventions when creating computer programs;
B. SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT	
B1	use a variety of problem-solving strategies to solve different types of problems independently and as part of a team;
B2	design software solutions to meet a variety of challenges;
B3	design algorithms according to specifications;
B4	apply a software development life-cycle model to a software development project
C. COMPUTER ENVIRONMENTS AND SYSTEMS	
C1	relate the specifications of computer components to user requirements;
C2	use appropriate file maintenance practices to organize and safeguard data;
C3	demonstrate an understanding of the software development process.
D. TOPICS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE	

D1	describe policies on computer use that promote environmental stewardship and sustainability;
D2	demonstrate an understanding of emerging areas of computer science research;
D3	describe postsecondary education and career prospects related to computer studies.

The Achievement Chart

Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, First Edition, Covering Grades 1 to 12, 2010 sets out the Ministry of Education's assessment, evaluation, and reporting policy. The policy aims to maintain high standards, improve student learning, and benefit all students, parents, and teachers in elementary and secondary schools across the province.

The Achievement Chart for the Grade 11 Computer Studies Course identifies four categories of knowledge and skills and four levels of achievement in the Grade 10 course, Digital Technologies and Innovations in the Changing World. (For important background, see "Content Standards and Performance Standards" in the general "Assessment and Evaluation" section that applies to all curricula.). The achievement chart is a standard province-wide guide to be used by teachers. It enables teachers to make professional judgements about student work that are based on clear performance standards and on a body of evidence collected over time.

ACHIEVEMENT CHART FOR COMPUTER STUDIES, GRADES 10 –12

Categories	**50–59% (Level 1)**	**60–69% (Level 2)**	**70–79% (Level 3)**	**80–100% (Level 4)**
Knowledge and Understanding – Subject-specific content acquired in each course (knowledge), and the comprehension of its meaning and significance (understanding)				
	The Student:			
Knowledge of content (e.g., facts,technical terminology, definitions, procedures, standards)	demonstrates limited knowledge of content	demonstrates some knowledge of content	demonstrates considerable knowledge of content	demonstrates thorough knowledge of content
Understanding of content (e.g.,concepts, principles, methodologies, use of tools)	demonstrates limited understanding of content	demonstrates some understanding of content	demonstrates considerable knowledge of content	demonstrates thorough knowledge of content

Category	50–59% (Level 1)	60–69% (Level 2)	70–79% (Level 3)	80–100% (Level 4)
Thinking – The use of critical and creative thinking skills and/or processes				
	The Student:			
Use of planning skills (e.g., focusing research, gathering information, selecting strategies, organizing a project)	uses planning skills with limited effectiveness	uses planning skills with some effectiveness	uses planning skills with considerable effectiveness	uses planning skills with a high degree of effectiveness
Use of processing skills (e.g., analysing, interpreting, assessing, reasoning, evaluating, integrating, synthesizing)	uses processing skills with limited effectiveness	uses processing skills with some effectiveness	uses processing skills with considerable effectiveness	uses processing skills with a high degree of effectiveness
Use of critical/creative thinking processes (e.g., evaluation of computer solutions, problem solving, decision making, detecting and correcting flaws, research)	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with limited effectiveness	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with some effectiveness	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with considerable effectiveness	uses critical/ creative thinking processes with a high degree of effectiveness
Category	**50–59% (Level 1)**	**60–69% (Level 2)**	**70–79% (Level 3)**	**80–100% (Level 4)**
Communication – The conveying of meaning through various forms				
	The Student:			
Expression and organization of ideas and information (e.g., clear expression, logical organization) **in oral, visual, and written forms, including electronic forms** (e.g. presentations, charts, graphs, tables, maps, models, web pages, reports)	expresses and organizes ideas and information with limited effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with some effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with considerable effectiveness	expresses and organizes ideas and information with a high degree of effectiveness
Communication for different audiences (e.g., peers, computer users, company supervisor) **and purposes** (e.g., to inform, to persuade**) in oral, visual, and written forms, including electronic forms**	communicates for different audiences and purposes with limited effectiveness	communicates for different audiences and purposes with some effectiveness	communicates for different audiences and purposes with considerable effectiveness	communicates for different audiences and purposes with a high degree of effectiveness

Use of conventions vocabulary, and terminology of the discipline in oral, visual, and written forms, including electronic forms	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology with limited effectiveness	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology with some effectiveness	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology with considerable effectiveness	uses conventions, vocabulary, and terminology with a high degree of effectiveness
Category	**50–59% (Level 1)**	**60–69% (Level 2)**	**70–79% (Level 3)**	**80–100% (Level 4)**
Application – The use of knowledge and skills to make connections within and between various contexts				
	The Student:			
Application of knowledge and skills (e.g., concepts, processes, use of equipment and technology) **in familiar contexts**	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with limited effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with some effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with considerable effectiveness	applies knowledge and skills in familiar contexts with a high degree of effectiveness
Transfer of knowledge and skills (e.g., choice of tools and software, ethical standards, concepts, procedures, technologies) to **new contexts**	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with limited effectiveness	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with some effectiveness	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with considerable effectiveness	transfers knowledge and skills to new contexts with a high degree of effectiveness
Making connections within and between various contexts (e.g., between computer studies and personal experiences, opportunities, social and global challenges and perspectives; between subjects and disciplines)	makes connections within and between various contexts with limited effectiveness	makes connections within and between various contexts with some effectiveness	makes connections within and between various contexts with considerable effectiveness	makes connections within and between various contexts with a high degree of effectiveness

Note: A student whose achievement is below 50% at the end of a course will not obtain a credit for the course.

Strategies for Assessment & Evaluation of Student Performance

Assessment, evaluation, and reporting of student achievement will be based on the policies and practices outlined in the following Ministry's policy document Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools, 2010.

Students will be evaluated based on the overall expectations of the course through the achievement charts in The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 10 to 12: Computer Studies, 2008 (revised), as outlined in this document

The Ministry of Education's document Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting in Ontario Schools outlines policies for measuring and communicating achievement. Levels of achievement are defined as follows:

Level	Percentage	Achievement
Level 1	50—59%	Represents achievement that falls much below the provincial standard. The student demonstrates the specified knowledge and skills with limited effectiveness. Students must work at significantly improving learning in specific areas, as necessary, if they are to be successful in the next grade/course
Level 2	60—69%	Represents achievement that approaches the provincial standard. The student demonstrates the specified knowledge and skills with some effectiveness. Students performing at this level need to work on identified learning gaps to ensure future success
Level 3	70—79%	Represents the provincial standard for achievement. The student demonstrates the specified knowledge and skills with considerable effectiveness. Parents of students achieving at level 3 can be confident that their children will be prepared for work in subsequent grades/courses.
Level 4	80—100%	Identifies achievement that surpasses the provincial standard. The student demonstrates the specified knowledge and skills with a high degree of effectiveness. However, achievement at level 4 does not mean that the student has achieved expectations beyond those specified for the grade/course.

Seventy percent (70%) of the evaluation is based on daily classroom work and will be determined through a variety of methods, as outlined in the table below. Thirty percent (30%) of the evaluation will be based on a final design project which includes a prototype and presentation. This final evaluation allows the student the opportunity to demonstrate comprehensive achievement of the overall expectations of the course.

Teachers will use "assessment for learning" and "assessment as learning" practices to help students identify: where they are in relation to the learning goals and what next steps they need to take to achieve the goals.

This ongoing feedback will help prepare students for "assessment of learning", the process of collecting and interpreting evidence for the purpose of summarizing learning at a given point in time, to make judgments about the quality of student learning on the basis of established criteria, and to assign a value to represent that quality.

Outline of Course Content

Unit 1: Computer Hardware and Operating Systems	12 hours
Students will understand and learn the fundamental computer hardware components by comparing, dissecting and building hardware computer systems. Students will also explore essential software components of a computer by installing, navigating and configuring various systems. STRAND C; C1, C2, C3 Assessment of learning: Computer dissection Software installation	
Unit 2: Web Development and Introduction to Programming	**30 hours**
Students will learn how to use modern web development tools and frameworks to design simple web applications. Students will also learn the basics of programming: ● Variables ● Control structures STRAND A; A1, A2, A3, A4 Assessment of learning: Assignment on loop, functions, arrays Micro:bit project	
Unit 3: System Integration and Advanced Programming	**24 hours**
Students will learn about integration of computer systems with various hardware and software integrations such as electronic sensors and/or software application program interfaces (API). ● Loops ● Troubleshooting STRAND A4, B1, B2, B3 Assessment of learning: Assignment testing and debugging	
Unit 4: Industrial Applications and Career Opportunities	**12 hours**

Students will learn about real world implementations of computer systems and their various uses. Students will also explore the career opportunities available in computer science and software engineering. STRAND D; D1, D2, D3 Assessment of Learning: Research project	
Unit 5: Software Engineering and Project Management	36 hours
Students will learn how to develop test code in order to have self-testing code and validate the integrity of their applications. Students will also learn concepts in regard to proper software development leveraging the following technologies: ● Source Control ● Unit Testing ● Project Management Systems ● Documentation STRAND A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2, B3, B4, C3 Assessment of Learning: Assignment on flowchart Assignment on functions, exception handling Coding project and Final project	

Course Schedule

During the summer 2024, the course schedule will be Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Lunch hour is from 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.
Course date: July 29 to August 23, 2024

Teaching & Learning Strategies

This course is intended to give high school students a good understanding of application development using industry standards. The students will be continuously engaged in hands-on learning as they navigate new development tools and environments. They will also take part in class discussions regarding the new technologies they will use to build applications.

The teacher will begin each day with a review of the previous day's lessons and then relate these topics to the new material to be covered. The students will be guided through many programming examples prior to practicing individually and in groups. This training will allow

them to complete student-led assignments and projects required for the course. Their knowledge will be frequently evaluated through formative assessments of their code, system tests, documentation, and continuous integration environment.

HTML, CSS, JavaScript and Pyton will be the development tools used to direct students as they move through their experiential learning of implementation methodologies. The teacher will elaborate on professional development practices in order to deliver a learning environment consistent with industry standards. Programmers in the industry have access to project management systems, source control, integrated development environments and continuous integration. Students in this course will be provided these systems in order to develop and test applications using industry practices.

The final project of the course will aim to develop students' problem solving and project management skills as they implement an application of their choice using professional practices. The teacher will either approve or propose different projects before the students begin building their projects over a span of one week.

Differentiated Instructions for different learners

Teachers at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Engineering Secondary School provide effective lesson design through differentiated instructional approaches. We plan our teaching in every subject and discipline to address the various needs of all our students and thrive for students to see themselves reflected in classroom resources and activities.

When planning instructional approaches, our priorities focus on helping our students achieve their full potential by providing a learning environment that supports not only their cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development but also promotes their healthy development, their sense of self, spirit, their mental health, and their resilience. Parents, guardians, and community partners all play critical roles in creating this educational experience.

Differentiated instruction is at the core of our curriculum planning. Differentiated instruction offers students a choice from a range of activities or allows them to select their own projects. By giving students the power to choose their own topic, they can select something that most interests them and become more invested in the project. By assessing each individual student's abilities, background, interests and learning styles, we can design our lessons based on the needs of our diverse students. All our courses' contents (what is being taught), processes (how it is taught), and products (how students demonstrate their learning) are designed in relation to our students' needs.

Our effective lesson designs are student centered and involve a strategic blend of whole-class, small-group, and individual learning activities to suit students' differing strengths, interests, and levels of readiness to learn.

- **We use a variety of media** to ensure that students are provided with alternatives for auditory and visual information. To support learners as they focus strategically on their learning goals, we create an environment in which learners can express themselves using a range of kinesthetic, visual, and auditory strengths.
- **We vary ways in which students can respond and demonstrate their understanding of concepts**, and support students in goal-setting, planning, and time-management skills related to their learning.
- **We use an active learning approach**, such as live coding. Live coding is a demonstration by the teacher in which they explain each step of the problem-solving and programming processes as students engage with these processes in real time. We occasionally deliberately introduce errors to demonstrate how to respond to such difficulties. This approach provides opportunities for students to consolidate their understanding and further develop their Engineering Design Processes skills. We pace our live coding activities with care to ensure that all students can actively participate and have time to formulate and ask questions to clarify their understanding.
- **We design assignments that are "low floor, high ceiling"** – that is, all students are provided with the opportunity to find their own entry point to the learning. We support students working at their own pace and can provide further support as needed, while continuing to move student learning forward. We design tasks that are intentionally created to be low floor, high ceiling to provide opportunities for students to use varied approaches and to continue to be engaged in learning with varied levels of complexities and challenges. This is an inclusive scaffolding approach that is grounded in a growth mindset: the belief that every student can succeed.
- **We engage in peer instruction** by involving the use of targeted multiple-choice questions with distractors that are designed to expose possible misconceptions. This is an effective technique to check for understanding and to encourage student dialogue about course topics. Our peer instruction process involves the following steps:

    1. Students investigate or practice using new concepts;

    2. The teacher poses a multiple-choice question, and students individually select their answers;

    3. Students discuss their choices with their peers, which enables them to explore the topic and possibly clarify their understanding;

    4. The teacher poses the same question again and asks each student to reassess their answer;

    5. The teacher facilitates a whole-group discussion of the topic under consideration.
- **We use the Engineering Design Process** - a model used by engineers to create something new or make something better.
- **Pair programming** - a technique in which two students (a driver and a navigator) work together using a single computer to solve a problem. The driver's role is to write the code, while the navigator provides advice and guidance as they jointly work towards achieving a common goal.

- **Individual work** - where students benefit from working individually to investigate algorithms and write software programs.
- **We teach the computational thinking model**- a model of thinking that is more about thinking than it is about computing. It is about designing and evaluating potential solutions to coding problems. The concepts of computational thinking include:
    1. decomposition (the breakdown of a problem or task into steps or pieces)
    2. pattern recognition (identification of other problems or items that are similar)
    3. abstraction (the reduction of a complex task to its essential components)
    4. algorithms (a set of instructions to follow to solve a problem)

When these concepts are applied, they are known as computational thinking practices.

- **We include current events in our lessons -** current events and emerging technologies stimulate student interest and thus, are embedded in our curriculum. They enhance the relevance of the curriculum and help students connect their in-class lessons with real-world events or situations. Embedding current events into our lessons is an effective instructional strategy for implementing many course expectations.

Considerations for Program Planning

Instructional Approaches

In computer studies teachers will be using projects as a means for students to gain knowledge and learn new skills such that they can achieve the course expectations. This type of course will give students ample opportunities to collaborate in teams and work cooperatively while working through design and programming problems. When students are actively engaged in experiential learning, they tend to build longer-lasting skills and better retain knowledge.

Through hands-on lessons, students will be given the opportunity to work individually and in teams. Teachers will model new skills, offering direction and support until students are confident in using those skills independently. Teachers will model good program design and good coding practices to set students off on the right foot, and giving them ample time to practice new skills.

By differentiating instruction, teachers will address the various learning preferences and individual needs of their students. He/She will provide examples followed by practice allowing students to learn a variety of concepts, skills, procedures, and processes. With the support of teacher modelling and ample time for practice, students will gain understanding and develop new skill sets in manageable chunks. This scaffolding approach will provide students with the support they need to reach manageable objectives.

Role play and the use of real-world examples will allow students to better grasp the abstract concepts taught in computer studies. Kinesthetic activities can also be incorporated into the classroom such that students better retain new knowledge, such as the concept of binary numbers. Students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively in groups, where each student has a specific role on the team. For instance, in pair programming one student can type out the code while the other student dictates the code and comments, until they switch roles.

Teachers have the freedom to choose the type of programming language for the course (such as object-oriented or procedural) as well as the language itself. It is important for teachers to note that students who recognize the value and relevance of what they are doing will be self-motivated to achieve the course expectations and take an active role in their learning. Selecting appropriate teaching methods and learning activities can have a significant positive effect on students' attitudes toward computer studies.

The Importance of Current Events in Computer Studies

The discussion of current events and emerging technologies stimulates student interest and will be embedded into the computer studies curriculum. It enhances the relevance of the curriculum and helps students connect their in-class lessons with real-world events or situations. Embedding current events into the lessons is an effective instructional strategy for implementing many course expectations into the curriculum.

The Role of ICT in Computer Studies

Information and communications technologies (ICT) tools allow teachers to expand their instructional strategies and support student learning. These tools include Internet websites, word-processing programs, and multimedia resources. These tools help students collect, organize, and present data for reports and presentations. They also enable students to connect with each other and the world to be able to share ideas and collaborate on projects.

Students will be encouraged to use ICT tools for most of the course in order to learn new skills and communicate their learning. Students will be using PowerPoint, for instance, to present their design projects to the class.

With the power of the Internet comes potential risks such as privacy, safety, and abuse of technology in the form of bullying or other malicious acts. Students must be made aware of these issues and teachers will model appropriate behaviour in their instruction. Teachers can also make use of ICT tools in their day-to-day teaching practice of curriculum design and in-class teaching.

Planning Computer Studies Programs for Students with Special Education Needs

Classroom teachers have a duty to ensure that all students in their class have the opportunity to learn and succeed regardless of their special education needs. *Special Education Transformation: The Report of the Co-Chairs with the Recommendations of the Working Table on Special Education, 2006* promotes a set of beliefs that should guide program planning for students with special education. These beliefs include:

- All students can succeed.
- Universal design and differentiated instruction are effective and interconnected means of meeting the learning or productivity needs of any group of students.
- Each student has his or her own unique patterns of learning.
- Classroom teachers need the support of the larger community to create a learning environment that supports students with special education needs.
- Fairness is not sameness.

Teachers are encouraged to develop their program plan in accordance to their students' diversity of strengths and abilities. This can be achieved through a myriad of ways including: assessing each student's prior knowledge and skills, providing ongoing assessment, and allowing for flexible groupings. By assessing each student's current achievement level and weighing that against the course expectations, the teacher can determine if the student will be requiring any combination of: accommodations, modified expectations, or alternative expectations. If the student requires accommodations, modified expectations, or both, the information must be recorded in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Students Requiring Accommodations Only

Accommodations that are required by students must be identified on their IEP. Differentiated instruction and universal design lend themselves well to providing accommodations for students. Students will still be evaluated on the curriculum course expectations and achievement levels communicated by the Ministry.

There are three types of accommodations:

- Instructional accommodations: Teachers change the way in which lessons are taught including integrating technology and using different styles of presentation.
- Environmental accommodations: This includes a change in the learning environment whether it be classroom seating by location or group, or lighting.
- Assessment accommodations: These allow students to demonstrate their learning in a different way. For instance, they may be given the opportunity to give oral answers to written questions or they may be given more time to complete an assignment or test.

Students Requiring Modified Expectations

Modified expectations that are required by students must be identified on their IEP. For the most part, these expectations will be based on the regular course expectations but the number and/or complexity will differ. Modified expectations are specific, realistic, and measurable achievements that the student can demonstrate independently, given assessment accommodations.

It is the principal who will decide whether the achievement of the modified expectations constitutes successful completion of the course and whether the student is eligible to receive a credit for the course; this decision must be communicated to the student and their parents.

When course expectations are not extensively modified and it is expected that the student can achieve most of them, the modified expectations should determine how the required knowledge and skills differ from those identified in the course expectations. In the case, if the student is working toward a credit for the course, the IEP box must be checked on the Provincial Report Card.

With extensive modifications to expectations such that achievement of them is not expected to result in a credit, the expectations should identify the precise requirements or tasks on which the student's performance will be evaluated and which will be used to determine the student's mark on the Provincial Report Card. The IEP box must be checked and the appropriate statement from the *Guide to the Provincial Report Card, Grades 9-12, 1999* (p. 8) must be added. Modified expectations must be reviewed in relation to the student's progress at least once each reporting period, and must be updated as necessary.

Program Considerations for English Language Learners

Schools in Ontario have a very diverse and multicultural student population, such that 20% of students have a language other than English as their first language. These English language learners may be recent immigrants or refugees while others may be born in Canada into a family whose primary home language is either not English or is an English dialect differing significantly from the English taught in Ontario schools. Teachers must be mindful that many of these students are entering a new linguistic and cultural environment at school.

During their first few years in an Ontario school, English language learners may receive support through English as a Second Language (ESL) programs or English Literacy Development (ELD) programs. ELD programs are primarily for newcomers who arrive with significant gaps in their education, often due to limited opportunities (in terms of education and literacy) in their home country.

It is important that teachers recognize the orientation process whereby English language learners adapt to a new social environment and language. Some may be very quiet at first, using body language rather than speech and/or limited verbal communication to convey their

thoughts. These students thrive in a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment. As the students learn to speak English, it is important to note that oral fluency is not a good indicator of the student's literacy development and vocabulary.

It is the shared responsibility of the classroom teacher, the ESL/ELD teacher (where available), and other school staff to help in the development of students' English. Volunteers and peers may also provide significant support. Teachers are required to adapt their instruction to facilitate the success of their English language learner students. These adaptations may include:

- Modifying some or all course expectations such that they are challenging yet achievable given the student's English proficiency
- Using a variety of instruction strategies, such as visual cues, pre-teaching vocabulary, offering peer tutoring
- Using a variety of learning resources, such as bilingual dictionaries, visual material, simplified text
- Modifying assessments, such as giving extra time, offering the choice of demonstrating skills/knowledge orally or in writing, assigning cloze sentences instead of essays

When learning expectations are modified for an English language learner, it must be clearly indicated on their report card.

Equity and Inclusion Education in Computer Studies

The Faculty of Engineering Secondary School abides by the University of Ottawa's Violence Prevention Policy and Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination Policy. These policies encourage staff and students to show respect for diversity in the school and the wider society. The policies aim to provide a safe learning environment, free from violence, harassment, and discrimination.

Differentiated instruction will be at the core of curriculum planning. By assessing each individual student's abilities, background, interests and learning styles, teachers can design their lessons based on the needs of their diverse students. The course content (what is being taught), process (how it is taught), and product (how students demonstrate their learning) will be designed in relation to the students' needs.

Generally, in technical courses such as computer science there is a clear gender disparity. Studies have shown that female students are often drawn to courses that have a societal aspect to them, rather than just abstract learning. It may be helpful for teachers to offer projects and activities that have a clear and meaningful societal application. For instance, instead of being asked to design a robotic arm (whose purpose is unknown), teacher can give students the option of designing an assistive device. Differentiated instruction offers students a choice from a range of activities or allows them to select their own projects; by giving students the power to

choose their own topic, they can select something that most interests them and become more invested in the project.

Environmental Education and Computer Studies

It is important for students to understand their environmental impact in the world and how they can better the environment they are living in. It is the duty of the teacher to integrate environmental education into their curriculum planning such that students understand their personal responsibility to the environment and their role in society.

Environmental education can be integrated into the classroom in a variety of ways. In selecting their projects, students can go the environmental route and select a project that is directly linked to environmental impact, such as a simulation of a healthy ecosystem or the consequences of an oil spill. Additionally, students can focus on the environmental impact of computer use by learning about the safe handling and disposal of materials used in the manufacturing of computer components. By implementing strategies to reduce, reuse and recycle, students can learn about government agencies and community partners that support such practices. This will give students the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills and responsible practice with respect to environmental implications of their selected project.

Programming projects can be used to address environmental-focused course expectations. For instance, students can program a survey that assesses people's environmental awareness as it relates to the use of computers. The program could calculate the awareness and suggest strategies or provide feedback to users.

Literacy, Mathematical Literacy, Financial Literacy and Inquiry/Research Skills

Many activities in the computer studies curriculum requires students to practice and develop oral, written, and visual literacy skills. Students will be required to brainstorm ideas and effectively communicate them to their team members. They will need to be able to justify their choices for decisions taken in the design process and will need to be able to communicate them clearly to their audience in an oral presentation with visual support. They will be required to compose written reports on their progress and outline the steps taken during the design process in order to effectively convey their message to the reader. Students will be learning specialized terminology which they will be expected to use appropriately and precisely in their communication.

In developing programs, students will build on their mathematical literacy. Students will be required to communicate clearly and concisely through the use of tables, diagrams, and/or flow charts. Many components of the computer studies curriculum emphasize students' ability to interpret and use symbols and charts.

While learning about the different components of a computer, both hardware and software, students will understand the importance of making good economical choices when choosing or buying a computer. Financial literacy connections may be made as students learn about their place in the world, as a responsible and compassionate citizen and through critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving that can be applied to real life situations.

In conducting research for their projects, students will be required to explore a variety of possible solutions to their challenge, analyzing the context of their data and properly interpreting it. They will be required to analyses the source of their information, determine its validity and relevance, and use it in appropriate ways. Teachers can support students by guiding them toward reputable sources including peer-reviewed journals. The ability to locate, question, and evaluate information allows a student to become an independent, lifelong learner.

The Ontario Skills Passport and Essential Skills

The Ontario Skills Passport (OSP) is a web-based service that can track students' Essential Skills (such as reading, writing, and problem solving) and work habits (such as working safely and being reliable). These skills and work habits are easily transferable from school to work and are useful for employers looking to assess potential candidates for cooperative education placements. The OSP is also useful for students looking to assess, build, document, and track their skills through their educational, professional, and personal experiences. More information about the OSP can be found on the ministry website, http://skills.edu.gov.on.ca.

The Ontario First Nation, Métis, Inuit Education Policy Framework

The Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework is based on the vision that all First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in Ontario will have the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to successfully complete their secondary education to pursue postsecondary education or training and/or to enter the workforce. They will have the traditional and contemporary knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to be socially contributive, politically active, and economically prosperous citizens of the world. All students in Ontario will have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis, and Inuit traditions, cultures, and perspectives.

The Faculty of Engineering Secondary School abides by the goals stated in the Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework to provide a supportive and safe environment for all FNMI students. These goals include:

- Increase the level of student achievement
- Reduce gaps in student achievement
- Increase the levels of public confidence

For example, the school will strive to develop awareness among teachers of the learning styles of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students and instructional methods designed to enhance the learning of students, such as incorporating meaningful First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultural perspectives and activities when planning instruction, and implementing strategies for developing critical and creative thinking.

The First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students will also have access to the support, activities and resources offered by the uOttawa Indigenous Resource Centre Mashkawazìwogaming. For example, students can have access to student mentoring from a university student, individual or group meeting with and Elder in residence, and social and cultural events to participate in, if they wish to.

The Faculty of Engineering Secondary School, as part as the University of Ottawa also supports the uOttawa Indigenous Action Plan Framework for 2019-2024 which is designed to facilitate the inclusion of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students and support the specific needs of the indigenous community.

Career Education

In this era of technological innovation with rapidly evolving technologies, employers are always on the lookout for candidates with strong technical skills who can problem-solve effectively, think critically, and work collaboratively. These are the exact skills that will be developed through computer studies courses. In going through the design process, students will develop skills in: research, analysis, creativity, problem-solving, design, and presenting. They will practice these skills through both independent and group work.

Cooperative Education and Other Forms of Experiential Learning

Cooperative education and other forms of experiential learning, such as job shadowing, work experience, and field trips, allow students to apply the skills they've learned in the classroom to real-word work environments. They help students learn about the possible careers and employment opportunities in various fields of work, as well as broadening their knowledge of workplace practices and employer-employee relationships.

Students who choose a computer studies course as the related course for two cooperative education credits are able, through this packaged program, to meet the group 1, 2, and 3 compulsory credit requirements for the OSSD.

Teachers must assess the health and safety of placements and ensure that their students understand their rights as they relate to health and safety, privacy and confidentiality, and abuse and harassment in the workplace.

All cooperative education and other workplace experiences will be provided in accordance with the ministry's policy document *Cooperative Education and Other Forms of Experiential Learning: Policies and Procedures for Ontario Secondary Schools, 2000*.

Planning Program Pathways and Programs Leading to a Specialist High Skills Major

Computer studies courses are well suited for programs leading toward a Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) or programs leading toward an apprenticeship or workplace destination. Computer studies courses can also be combined with cooperative education credits in order to provide the workplace experience necessary for some SHSM programs, apprenticeships, and workplace destinations. SHSM programs would also include sector-specific learning opportunities offered by employers, skills-training centers, colleges, and community organizations.

Health and Safety in Computer Studies

The most common health and safety concerns associated with repeated computer use are eye strain and musculoskeletal injuries (including repetitive strain injuries). Teachers will ensure that work stations are ergonomic and that students maintain good posture and take frequent eye and body breaks. Students will also be taught about emotional and health risks common among heavy computer users, particularly social isolation.

Teachers will assess any risks associated with field trips including the transportation risks and risks at the visiting location and communicate these risks with parents and students. When activities take place outside of the predictable classroom environment, it is the teacher's duty to ensure the health and safety of students is maintained.

Resources

No textbook is required for this course, although the teacher will supply articles and blogs for students to read in order to extend their knowledge of the course. Students will be given access to all course material in class and will be given access to computer laboratories during and after class hours in order to continue their learning. Students will also be given access to any system required for the course, such as Travis CI, GitHub, Eclipse and SourceTree.