Course Learning Agreement: CS 1900

(As of 6/2024, subject to change)

Instructor

Dr. Wonsun Ahn, wahn@pitt.edu (Fall/Spring); Dr. John Ramirez, ramirez@cs.pitt.edu (Summer)

Course Information

Description: Students are given the opportunity to apply their newly gained knowledge in the field of Computer Science to a non-trivial, real-world project in industry. Students are paired with an industry supervisor to perform most of their work outside of class. The classroom portion of the course provides a forum where students can see and discuss each other's work, thereby gaining insight on the diversity of areas and positions in Computer Science. Each student is asked to do a presentation about their work and answer any questions from the audience. This gives students a rare opportunity to practice public speaking, and direction and feedback is provided on how to give a good technical presentation. Students also peer review their classmates' presentations, which gives them an opportunity to learn from their peers. Students are also asked to submit a technical report on their work and research activities through which they gain experience in technical writing.

Course Requirements: Be a declared CS major with junior (60+ completed credits) standing. Must have completed all 400 level CS courses with a C or better. Must have completed CS 1501 with a C or better. Must submit an internship for credit via Handshake prior to it beginning and before established deadlines on the policy website. Must provide updates to a faculty sponsor throughout the internship (via the SCI Experiential Learning Hub on Canvas) and fulfil capstone course tasks.

Credits: 3

Grade Component: Satisfactory/No Credit

Internship/Capstone Course Options: Fall/Fall option: student interns and enrolls in CS 1900 in the fall; Spring/Spring option: student interns and enrolls in CS 1900 in the spring; Summer/Fall: student interns in the summer and enrolls in CS 1900 in the fall; Summer/Summer: student interns and enrolls in CS 1900 in the summer (requires departmental permission, even if CPT/work authorization is needed)

Course Deliverables

Internship Check-ins

Students are required to check in with their faculty sponsor throughout the internship experience utilizing the SCI – Experiential Learning Hub on Canvas. Students will receive an invitation prior to the internship start date and will utilize the Assignments section to complete brief check-ins on a bi-weekly basis. Faculty sponsors will only respond if there's a concern or issue.

Internship Evaluations

You will need to respond to the following prompts at the end of your internship:

- Rate your overall internship experience (Excellent, Good, Average, Poor, Terrible)
- Where did you learn about the internship?
- Would you recommend this employer to other students? (Yes, Maybe, No)
- What was the work environment like? (In-person, Hybrid, Remote)
- Why were you initially interested in working with this employer?

- What were you initially tasked with doing?
- Did your responsibilities change during the internship? (Yes, No) If yes, please describe the new responsibilities.
- What technical skills have you gained? How will they help you in your career?
- What did you learn at Pitt which helped you in your internship?
- What could you have learned (in the classroom or outside) that would have helped you in your internship?
- How would you rate your preparedness in the following career readiness areas? (sample skills will be provided)
- What do you see as your most important competencies for future development? Your greatest strengths?
- Any additional comments you'd like to share with the course instructor?

How to Complete: To complete the evaluation, access the link through your Pitt email – you should receive an alert 14 days before the semester ends. If you do not, please log-in to Handshake and navigate to the Experiences tab under Career Center. You should see a notification there prompting you to complete the evaluation.

Internship Site: Your internship supervisor will also be required to submit an evaluation, which they have the option of sharing with you. If they're unable to complete third-party forms, they must submit a letter of internship completion and you should submit an internal/company final evaluation form (if possible) to the Manager of Experiential Learning for review.

Deadlines: For the Summer/Fall option, students and their internship supervisors must submit an evaluation prior to the end of the summer term (regardless of when the internship ends) to be reviewed by their faculty sponsor. Any major discrepancies between the learning goals agreed upon in the application and the final evaluations could impact enrollment in the fall capstone course.

For students enrolled in the Fall/Fall, Spring/Spring, or Summer/Summer option, students and their internship supervisors must submit an evaluation prior to the end of the academic term (regardless of when the internship ends) to be reviewed by their faculty sponsor. Any major discrepancies between the learning goals agreed upon in the application and the final evaluations could impact the final capstone grade.

Capstone Course

Students are required to attend the capstone course lectures (which may or may not be during the semester they're interning) and fulfill the in-class activities, which includes (but is not limited to) presenting in front of their peers what they learned during the internship, providing a weekly peer review of classmate's presentations, and submitting a technical report on activities during the internship.

Course Agreement

Internship credit is contingent upon the fulfillment of the course deliverables listed on this agreement and the internship responsibilities submitted in the initial application. If those deliverables are not completed for whatever reason (including, but not limited to, the employer changing your duties), you may no longer be eligible for internship credit. If this happens, please consult your faculty sponsor immediately to receive guidance.