Dept: Computer Science

Alumni Survey 2016

June 9th 2017, 4:10 pm EDT

Q162 - What single change in the CSE program would you most like to see? Explain briefly. If you would like to be contacted about your comments, please include contact information (e-mail preferred):

What single change in the CSE program would you most like to see? Explain b...
There HAS to be more classes on technology actually used in the field. Students graduating will have a hard time getting a job due to the fact the know basics about languages, and coding, but will know nothing of the actual technology being used. So they will have to engage in a ton of self study before they can even interview for positions.
Explain *why* we're being taught Resolve/C++ early on. I still remember when, in CSE 222, we got a handout explaining the upsides of contract-based programming. That was when it started to make sense, and I have a lot of respect for it now. Until then, I felt like it was a poor way to spend my time.
Written tests are not really a way to show skill in the field. I've been in the career for almost 3 years now and I have never been judged on my way to hand write correct code, or solve a problem without full access to any resource I need.
The focus on group work detracts from foundational knowledge. Graduates will have many opportunities to learn how to adapt to group work situations, but little exposure to higher academic concepts when they transition to the workforce. OSU's has a heavy focus on classes that feature group work to try to prepare students for their new occupations, but I didn't want to attend vocational training. Please reduce the focus on these courses, especially for non-traditional students (who already have work experience).
When I was in school there were very few web classes. Have more web (design and programming) classes available. Would have been very helpful for me.
Javascript is very important in any web-app based software company, and it was something that was definitely something that I don't recall being discussed at OSU. Of course, the basics you learn of your first programming language are always applicable, but many modern JS toolkits are almost their own language. Maybe some kind of course that could discuss and work with the current, modern Javascript technology stacks just to give some breadth of knowledge would be a good choice as an elective.
More algorithms and coding classes.
I hope that the intro level courses teach a real programming language now (either Java or Python preferably).
More labs to apply the skills that are being taught in classes. It would help to better prepare students for how these lessons in classes fit into skills that are necessary for after the graduate and enter the industry.
More guidance and definition of different "focus tracks" within CSE
Teach current, applicable, translatable technologies
Using more modern technologies in classes and learning about other roles within the CS community. When I went through the CSE program we were learning Resolve/C++ which isn't a language outside of OSU. We should be learning about JS specifically Angular and other roles such as quality assurance eng.

Adding more project classes for first year and second year CSE students, and also having classes that improve code quality of students. Even though it is usually part of curriculum for each class, it is rarely done and most of the professors do not spend that much time on it (there are few exceptions to it). Also making preventing first year students from forming groups for some of the basic classes is also a good idea because that way you can make sure that the students learned the class material and actually did the work rather than just letting some one in the group to do the labs.

I can't think of any real changes, besides maybe trying to keep up a bit faster with new technologies. I'm aware that this is challenging though.

I started my CSE education in 1994. At that time, I learned to program in Modula-2. Although I did learn the concepts of programming in a high-level language by studying Modula-2, I would have much preferred to learn how to program in a language commonly used in industry, like C. I'm not sure what language is being taught in introductory CSE courses today, but I hope it's something like Java or C++.

There were several classes that focused almost entirely on how to use obsolete technology without getting into the theory behind the engineering: classes like System Architecture, Operating Systems, Programming Languages, Networking, and Information Security. I don't know if it was a flaw in the curriculum or how the professor presented it, but these classes were drudgery and have been completely useless to me. I gleaned very little knowledge or insight that could be applied generally from these classes.