

Computer Science 290 *Directed Research*

To enroll in CPSC 290 this term, please complete this form and have it approved by the DUS no later than noon on the day that your course schedule is due (and *before* submitting your course schedule). Attach a description of the project (3 pages, *single-spaced*) that includes a list of the deliverables.

Student's Name: _____

Title of Project: _____

I have read the attached description (3 pages, single-spaced) and agree to advise the project outlined therein.

Advisor's Name: _____

Advisor's Signature: _____

End-of-Term Requirements

The following requirements must be completed by noon on the last day of reading period:

- Use the script `/c/cs290/bin/abstract` to submit your name, the title of your project, your advisor's name, and a 250-to-300-word abstract. This information will be added to the on-line database of recent CPSC 290 projects (see <http://zoo.cs.yale.edu/classes/cs290/>).
- Use the script `/c/cs290/bin/submit` to submit a set of web pages describing your project, including a copy of the description submitted with this form. These pages will become part of the on-line database of recent CPSC 290 projects (see <http://zoo.cs.yale.edu/classes/cs290/>).
- Give the DUS a paper copy of your final written report. This document will be added to the (circulating) library of recent CPSC 290 reports.

Note: You must satisfy these requirements even if you plan to continue your research next term. The only difference is that your electronic abstract, written report, and web pages should constitute an interim progress report (i.e., the level of detail must be the same as in the final versions, but the work described need not be complete).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *What are the deadlines?*

You must have this form approved by the DUS *before* submitting your course schedule.

You must complete the end-of-term requirements (see above) by noon on the last day of reading period.

2. *How do I choose a project?*

There are two general approaches

- *student sells project to professor:* e.g., you get an idea, write a 3-page prospectus that describes the scope of the project and includes a list of deliverables, and find a faculty member willing to supervise the work (which may require changes in the prospectus)
- *professor sells project to student:* e.g., a faculty member has a list of possible projects, and you select one (which may involve changes in the nature of the project)

(continued)

and a host of possibilities in between.

3. *What kind of project is appropriate?*

The project should be more than just an extended homework assignment or final course project and should require that you learn more about some area of computer science. To give you some idea of the possibilities, the titles, abstracts, and web pages for recent projects are available on-line at <http://zoo.cs.yale.edu/classes/cs290/>.

Regular courses meet $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours per week and require 2 to 3 additional hours per week for each hour of class. Using this as a guideline for what it takes to earn a course credit at Yale, the project should be something that you can complete in one semester (i.e., 14 weeks) working approximately 7 to 10 hours per week (i.e., in a total of 100–140 hours).

Note: You cannot be paid for your work on the project.

4. *Who may advise a CPSC 290 project?*

The official advisor (and thus the person who evaluates the work and assigns the grade) must be a faculty member with an appointment in the Department of Computer Science. However, the *de facto* advisor need not be, as long as the student meets with the official advisor at least once a month.

5. *How can I learn more about projects from past semesters?*

The course web pages <http://zoo.cs.yale.edu/classes/cs290/> contain the titles, abstracts, and web pages for recent projects. Copies of the written reports are kept in a circulating library managed by Linda Dobb (508a Watson).

6. *How often may I take CPSC 290?*

While you may not count the course as an elective in any of the computer science majors, you may take it more than once for Yale credit.

7. *May I do a two-term project?*

Yes. However, you must satisfy the end-of-term requirements at the end of *each* term, and your grade for each semester will be assigned at the end of *that* semester and will reflect what you accomplished. Thus in effect a two-term project is equivalent to two one-term projects, except that the work may be incomplete at the end of the first semester and the electronic abstract, written report, and web pages for the second semester describe the entire project.

8. *Are group projects allowed?*

Yes. However, each member of the group must work on a different part of the project, and your electronic abstract, final written report, and web pages must focus on *your own* contributions.

9. *What are the “deliverables?”*

Whatever you and your advisor decide you must complete by the end of the project. Possibilities include (but are not limited to) code, theorems, simulation studies, data analysis, written reports, and oral presentations.