International Society for Technology In Education (ISTE)
Secondary Computer Science Education Program Standards

ISTE prepared these standards for NCATE’s college of education program accreditation. NCATE’s Board of Directors will vote on their approval in October 2011.

PRINCIPLE I. KNOWLEDGE OF CONTENT. Candidates demonstrate knowledge of Computer Science content and model important principles and concepts. Candidates:

Standard I.A. Demonstrate knowledge of and proficiency in data representation and abstraction. Candidates:
  I.A.1. Effectively use primitive data types.
  I.A.2. Demonstrate an understanding of static and dynamic data structures.
  I.A.3. Effectively use, manipulate, and explain various external data stores--various types (text, images, sound, etc.), various locations (local, server, cloud), etc.
  I.A.4. Effectively use modeling and simulation to solve real-world problems.

Standard I.B. Effectively design, develop, and test algorithms. Candidates:
  I.B.1. Using a modern high-level programming language, construct correctly-functioning programs involving simple and structured data types; compound boolean expressions; and sequential, conditional, and iterative control structures.
  I.B.2. Design and test algorithms and programming solutions to problems in different contexts (textual, numeric, graphic, etc.) using advanced data structures.
  I.B.3. Analyze algorithms by considering complexity, efficiency, aesthetics, and correctness.
  I.B.4. Demonstrate knowledge of two or more programming paradigms.
  I.B.5. Effectively use two or more development environments.
  I.B.6. Demonstrate knowledge of varied software development models and project management strategies.

Standard I.C. Demonstrate knowledge of digital devices, systems, and networks. Candidates:
  I.C.1. Demonstrate an understanding of data representation at the machine level.
  I.C.2. Demonstrate an understanding of machine-level components and related issues of complexity.
  I.C.3. Demonstrate an understanding of operating systems and networking in a structured computer system.
  I.C.4. Demonstrate an understanding of the operation of computer networks and mobile computing devices.

Standard I.D. Demonstrate an understanding of the role computer science plays and its impact in the modern world. Candidates:
  I.D.1. Demonstrate an understanding of the social, ethical, and legal issues and impacts of computing, and attendant responsibilities of computer scientists and users.
  I.D.2. Analyze the contributions of computer science to current and future innovations in sciences, humanities, the arts, and commerce.

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PRINCIPLE II. EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES. Candidates demonstrate effective content pedagogical strategies that make the discipline comprehensible to students. Candidates:

Standard II.A. Plan and teach computer science lessons/units using effective and engaging practices and methodologies. Candidates:

II.A.1. Select a variety of real-world computing problems and project-based methodologies that support active and authentic learning and provide opportunities for creative and innovative thinking and problem solving.

II.A.2. Demonstrate the use of a variety of collaborative groupings in lesson plans/units and assessments.

II.A.3. Design activities that require students to effectively describe computing artifacts and communicate results using multiple forms of media.

II.A.4. Develop lessons and methods that engage and empower learners from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

II.A.5. Identify problematic concepts and constructs in computer science and appropriate strategies to address them.

II.A.6. Design and implement developmentally appropriate learning opportunities supporting the diverse needs of all learners.

II.A.7. Create and implement multiple forms of assessment and use resulting data to capture student learning, provide remediation, and shape classroom instruction.

PRINCIPLE III. EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS. Candidates apply their knowledge of learning environments by creating and maintaining safe, ethical, supportive, fair, and effective learning environments for all students. Candidates:

Standard III.A. Design environments that promote effective teaching and learning in computer science classrooms and on-line learning environments and promote digital citizenship. Candidates:

III.A.1. Promote and model the safe and effective use of computer hardware, software, peripherals, and networks.

III.A.2. Plan for equitable and accessible classroom, lab, and on-line environments that support effective and engaging learning.

PRINCIPLE IV. EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. Candidates demonstrate professional knowledge and skills in their field and readiness to apply them. Candidates:

Standard IV.A. Participate in, promote, and model ongoing professional development and life-long learning relative to computer science and computer science education. Candidates:

IV.A.1. Identify and participate in professional computer science and computer science education societies, organizations, and groups that provide professional growth opportunities and resources.

IV.A.2. Demonstrate knowledge of evolving social and research issues relating to computer science and computer science education.

IV.A.3. Identify local, state, and national content and professional standards and requirements affecting the teaching of secondary computer science.