Job-Centric Plans of Study for CompE: Advice to CompE undergrads (especially important to sophomores and juniors)

June 2019
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Three questions

• Q1: Do you want a CompE job at a top IT company?
  - jobs and internships
• OR you may go to grad school in which case do you want to apply to the top CompE programs?
  - I assume your answer is yes to one or both
Three questions

• Q2: What are the key CompE courses needed for either of these goals?
  - OO programming (30862), OS (469), security (404), compilers (468), AI (473), architecture (437), embedded systems (40862), networks (463)
  - Other courses lead up to these but these are what companies/grad schools want
  - All except 437 are software courses but many software job interviews ask about 437 content
  - 437 is a key distinguisher from Purdue Comp. Sci.
  - Be broad within CompE (DON’T specialize and be narrow) and take MOST/ALL of these - which of these is hot changes so be prepared regardless
Three questions

• Q3: When would many, if not most, of you interview for jobs or apply to grad school?
  - Fall of Senior year
Key Implication

• You must take MOST of the key courses BEFORE the end of Junior year
  - Taking ALL of those courses may be impossible
  - Taking as many of these courses will likely increase your job/grad school prospects

• Some plans of study to achieve this:
  - 264, 270, 362, 368 are prereqs for the key courses and should be done in the Sophomore year
  - Better not to miss more than one - best not to miss any - of 264, 270, 362, 368, 337 in the Sophomore year (yes, Sophomore)