School of Computer Engineering

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON MINOR IN COMPUTING

Q1 Why are there two different routes to obtaining a Minor in Computing?
Ans Some students already have a sufficient exposure to an introductory language. Such students will be allowed to replace CM101 with another subject.

Q2 What is the definition of a formal course in Computer Programming?
Ans Students who have successfully completed the First Year Common Engineering G168 are considered to be formally trained in Computer Programming. Please note that other Schools have some introduction to the use of computers but they do not constitute sufficient programming background. Such courses include:

School of Biological Sciences: BS105: Basic Computing
BS210: Bioinformatics;
Nanyang Business School: AB113: Information Technology
School of Communication & Information: CS108: I.T. for Media Use.

Q3 I have been involved in some computing activities such as web design, database and office applications writing during my secondary school days and would like to hone my skills professionally. The Minor in Computing does not seem to offer specialized areas for me to pursue my interest. Would I stand a better chance to work in the ICT industry if I have a Minor in Computing?
Ans The Minor in Computing should provide a student with sufficient knowledge to work with basic ICT based jobs. The goal of this minor is to equip students so that they can work knowledgeably with their counterparts with a Computing Major when they enter industry. This serves as an edge over others without the minor.

Q4 How will you differentiate between students who are interested in doing a minor and those who will take one or two of the minor subjects as General Electives? Will I be given priority if I inform your School that I am interested to do a Minor?
Ans Priority will be given to students registered to take a Minor in Computing. Students who wish to take computing subjects as General Electives will be given places only after the minors have been considered.

Q5 Is there any order for the non-compulsory minor subjects that I should first take?
Ans Students must complete their compulsory subjects before they will be allowed to take the non-compulsory subjects.

Q6 Can I take CM103 or CM104 (or other subjects listed among the electives subjects) before taking CM101 or CM102?
Ans Students who are not exempted from CM101 must complete CM101 first. CM102 must also be completed before other CM or SCXXX courses are made available.

Q7 How will the minor enhance future employability?
Ans It is envisaged that this minor will provide an edge in competing for jobs in the future. In whichever major you are taking, there is a universal need for computing tools and
applications. Hence, an organization should view this minor as an added bonus in its employees.

Q8 I am majoring in business and would like to go into eCommerce. But I notice your Minor does not offer specialities in the area. How can the minor help me?

Ans The Minor in Computing provides a technological basis for students. It will cover the technical aspects of computing and how technology can be used to support eCommerce. It however will not focus on the business aspects of eCommerce.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q9 Can I register for more than 1 minor subject under the Minor programme in the same semester?

Ans Students are advised to restrict themselves to one minor subject. However, if due to a lighter course load, a student has time for a second minor subject, they may be placed on the wait-list during registration. Subject to vacancies available after other students are allotted their first minor subject, allocation will be carried out on a first-come basis during the add/drop period.

Q10 If I inform the School that I am interested to do a Minor, can the School help me if there are clashes in my time-table?

Ans The School will schedule classes to suit the majority. It is ultimately the responsibility of students to register for the minor subjects based on their schedules.

Q11 What if I do not get selected for the Minor? Can I just take one subject? Is there any pre-requisite?

Ans Students occasionally are allowed to take subjects offered in SCE. This is however screened on a case-by-case and it is still subject to space availability. A pre-requisite is usually necessary, but these can only be determined when the student seeks the registration approval of the subject coordinator.

Q12 Will I be dropped from the Computing Minor program if I fail any of the CMxxx subjects?

Ans Students who fail any minor will be advised to focus on their major subjects and to drop their minor.

Q13 Will my performance in my major affect the status of the minor?

Ans SCE will not query the status of the student’s performance in the major. As long as the student is fulfilling the minor course requirements, SCE will not terminate the student’s registration in the minor course. However, you should monitor your own progress and if you are unable to cope with your major, you should drop the minor.

Q14 Do I have to register for the minor course during my first semester? Can I register in any other year?

Ans You should only apply for the minor after your first semester results are out. If you do not succeed within this first year, you may try again in Year 2. However, due to the number of subjects involved, students in Year 3 or higher will not be allowed to register.
Q15  If I successfully complete the studies in my major within the 4 years to qualify for an honours degree, can I then extend my study period independent of my major to complete my minor programme?
Ans  The policy does not allow this.