

Undergraduate Curriculum

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Pressures

- Rapidly increasing enrolment
 - CS180 last year ~350 students
 - CS180 this year ~ 450 students
- How to maintain quality and outcomes?
- How to improve retention and graduation rates?
- A number of initiatives
 - Bridge program
 - Instructional assistance

Learning focused

- Historically labs in many of our courses have been adversarial “tests”, pitting students against each other
- Switch in 180 this semester to collaborative and group problem solving
 - Strong students help weaker students
 - All students get to hear alternative problem solving approaches
 - TA led/taught discussion followed by small group and individual problem solving

Assessment changes

- Labs not being heavily assessed
- Projects, mid-terms, final exams the primary assessment mechanism
- CS180 mid-terms are to be “live coding” tests
 - 250 laptops in exam room
 - Standard environment
 - Programming problems

Increasing help avenues

- Supplemental instruction program (SI)
- USB help staffed Mon-Thu 7-9pm
- USB tutoring program