

ITCS 3211 - Computing Leaders Team Projects
ITCS 3212 - Computing Leaders Team Leads

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Welcome to the Computing Leaders Seminar

The objectives of this course are to develop students' "T-shaped" professional skills through student-led regional engagement. The 21st century technology workforce requires students with deep technical skills (vertical part of the T) along with broad interpersonal skills and an understanding of how to create technology-based solutions (horizontal part of the T). The T-shaped professional also understands the concepts of citizenship and community service. This course will develop knowledge of these concepts and skills in leadership and team-building; creating and applying technology-based solutions; oral and written communications; team-based project participation and management; and a life-long commitment to self-reflection. Course objectives are met through active participation in developmental seminars as well as in team-based service leadership projects.

The STARS Celebration

This course guides your participation in a national student leadership program called the STARS Leadership Corps, which was developed the STARS Alliance, a consortium of colleges and universities with a mission to broaden participation in computing, www.starsalliance.org. The STARS Celebration (www.starsalliance.org/celebration) is an annual student leadership conference, usually held in August, hosted by the STARS Alliance. Upon successful completion of at least one semester of this course, you are eligible to apply for funding to attend the next STARS Celebration.

University Diversity Statement

UNC Charlotte strives to create an academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status."

Academic Integrity

Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of the UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity. This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. All assignments including answers on exam questions, essays on readings, and timecard entries must be entirely your own writing, not based on the work of others. Each timecard or activity entry must be new and different from other entries. Students who violate the Code can receive an F on the assignment, an F in the course, or even be expelled from UNC Charlotte.

Disability Services

Students with documented disabilities requiring accommodation in this course should contact Disability Services in Fretwell 230.

Seminars

Seminar objectives are for students to:

- Develop an understanding of leadership theory and contemporary leadership models.
- Develop an understanding of concepts of citizenship and community service.
- Be able to articulate a personal philosophy of leadership as computing students and professionals.
- Develop technical and leadership skills.
- Become aware of extra-curricular and summer activities to advance T-shaped skills.

In-class seminars will include facilitated discussions, invited speakers, panels, and lab tours with a focus on professional skills development and an introduction to careers and graduate school options. See [Moodle](#) for the full course schedule.

Background Checks

Many of our partners require background checks to conduct business in their facilities. All students must comply with our partner's requirements for completing a background check. If this is an issue for you, please see Karen Bean.

Leadership Team Project

Project objectives are for students to:

- Develop the ability to create technology-based solutions to community problems.
- Practice technical, communication, and leadership skills within the context of a community service project and reflect on that service.

Course Requirements

1. **Attend and participate fully in every class session scheduled for the course in which you are enrolled** (2.75 hours weekly). Class attendance comprises 10% of your course grade. Out of respect for others, and to facilitate learning, please arrive in class on time. Please read any assigned readings prior to class. Please do not schedule outreach activities during class time. Outreach activities will not be considered a reason for an absence.
2. **Maintain perfect attendance and promptness for your Leadership Team activities.** Part of working within a team involves being respectful of team members' time. When you engage in off-campus activities, you are representing UNC Charlotte and the STARS Leadership Corps. In both cases, being prompt and prepared conveys the image of leadership, competence, and responsibility.
3. **Join the STARS Online Community.** The STARS Online Community is your central place to find outreach activities and keep up to date on news about the STARS Computing Corps. As such, you are expected to register with the community. After registration, you are emailed a link to a pre-survey; you are expected to complete this survey as well.
4. **Actively participate with your team on the development of all team deliverables.** (Team outreach plan, midterm presentation, team final report, outreach modules for digital library, YouTube video, website updates, mobile application, etc.).
5. **Journaling.** Time will be set aside in each class for journal writing. Assignments will range from freewrites, focused freewrites, the Experiential Learning model, and other methods to encourage students to reflect on their personal experiences working in the field, with project teams, and with community partners. A final reflection paper will be a metareflection on your journal entries and your personal growth as leaders in service to community.
6. **Complete assignments on time.** All individual and team assignments and due dates will be listed on the Moodle website. Assignments will include weekly reflective journal assignments, project reports, a resume, a practice GRE test, instructional modules, and a final reflection paper assignment.
7. **Complete outreach activities for your Leadership Team Project.** Your participation in this course requires an average of three hours per week outside of class. You are required to complete **at least 12 outreach hours** each semester. Students are expected to take the lead in developing technology-based solutions.
8. **Complete an online weekly timecard.** Weekly timecards will be used to track your hours spent on all STARS-related activities, including your outreach hours.
9. **Submit an activity report following each outreach event.** Identify one person per team to be responsible for this. Activity reports are submitted to: <http://goo.gl/64zWVG>

Assignments and Course Schedule

This course utilizes Moodle for all course management, including assignment announcements and submissions, and the class schedule.

Outreach

You are expected to conduct 12 hours of outreach in your community. Opportunities will be added to the STARS Online Community (<http://community.starsalliance.org>) at regular intervals throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to commit to these activities, and commit early. Students are also free to pursue their own outreach activities should the provided outreach not provide enough hours to the student. **Outreach must contain a computer science concept for it to count for your 12 hours. You must get prior approval for any outreach activity you conduct on your own.**

Deadlines

No late assignments are accepted. Exceptions will only be made on a case-by-case basis at the instructor's discretion.

Grading

Grades are determined as follows:

- 40% - Team assignments
- 25% - Weekly journaling and final metareflection paper
- 25% - Outreach hours
- 10% - Class attendance & weekly time cards

Grades will be assigned based on a standard 10 point scale using the Course Grade. I.E., A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; ...