New Star Course Approval Request

SE Ph.D. students may request that the faculty approve an additional course in one of the star categories. In general, if the request is approved, the course will be added to the list for other students to take for star credit. When a request is student-initiated, it is the student's reponsibility to make a case supporting STAR status. Students should submit a request to the SE Ph.D. Program Director and the SE Ph.D. Program Administrator using the following template

Your name:

Name and number of the course:

Has this request been approved by your advisor?

Course description or URL to course description:

Which star requirement you want this course to satisfy?

SYM: A course whose primary focus is on symbolic mathematical modeling and analysis techniques that are applicable to software artifacts. Students taking a SYM course should engage in symbolic research methods that might include discrete models, proofs, state space exploration, or other software-relevant mathematical topics. Symbolic mathematical techniques are useful in many areas of software engineering research, and more broadly, many students have found them helpful in writing careful definitions and precisely distinguishing among related concepts.

ENG: A course with a primary focus on software systems design and engineering. Courses in this category must include (A) significant engagement with software design, (B) consideration of software artifacts at a significant scale and complexity, and (C) exposure to the tradeoffs (such as cost/benefit) at the core of the engineering discipline.

SOC: A course with a primary focus on how software interacts with larger issues in society, business, or public policy. This require-ment is intended to create breadth in the curriculum, pushing students out of a focus on the software system itself (which is what ENG does) to take a course that views software from the perspective of another discipline.

BEH: A course that is primarily concerned with behavioral science research methods. The course must touch on one or more human-focused empirical research methods that may include case studies, interviews, surveys, human subjects experiments, or mining software repositories. These methods may involve working with subjects directly or inferring information about subjects based on artifacts they have left behind, as in mining software repository research. The course must require students to plan and prototype a sample project using at least one of these research methods in some depth.

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On the follow pages, please submit evidence, including quotes from the course description and syllabus with supporting links, to demonstrate that the course:

Matches the topic and fulfills the particular requirements of the star course category you have requested. Star courses should have some degree of breadth but are not expected to provide comprehensive coverage of a star category.

Carnegie Mellon University
Software Engineering

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On the follow pages, please submit evidence, including quotes from the course description and syllabus with supporting links, to demonstrate that the course:

Assumes an undergraduate background in the relevant area - no more and no less

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On the follow pages, please submit evidence, including quotes from the course description and syllabus with supporting links, to demonstrate that the course:

Uses multiple forms of evaluation (e.g. assignments, exams, projects, papers, …)

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On the follow pages, please submit evidence, including quotes from the course description and syllabus with supporting links, to demonstrate that the course:

Is appropriate for Ph.D. study in terms of depth and engagement with research. For example, if a course is primarily designed for master's students, a justification should be given that the course is also an appropriate preparation for Ph.D. study. Sometimes a course that is missing engagement with research may be adapted for Ph.D. students through additional or replacement assignments that lead PhD students deeper into relevant research topics