From: Philip Thomas, Honors Program Director  
Date: 5 February 2021  
Subject: Honors Credit for 500-Level COMPSCI Courses

This memo provides information for students considering petitioning for a 500-level CICS course to count for honors credit. Note that petitions are submitted via CHC PATHs. The CICS requirements for a 500-level course to be approved for honors credit are:

1. The course must be graduate level. This means that both A) graduate students must also be enrolled in the course, and B) the instructor must indicate that the course is graduate level.
2. The combined enrollment from all sections of the class that meet simultaneously must be less than or equal to 25 students.
3. The course must be 3 or more credits.

You may submit a petition without considering these criteria. However, as honor program director, I have yet to approve any requests that do not meet all three of these criteria, and I have approved all requests that do meet these criteria.

Also, note that 600-level courses automatically count for honors credit and do not require a petition. However, 600-level courses are doctoral level (500-level are not). In general, we recommend that doctoral students only take one or two 600-level courses per semester (see for example the suggested timeline at the bottom of this page). While talented undergraduate students can succeed in 600-level courses, be prepared for a significantly higher workload in these classes.

You can find additional resources regarding courses for honors credit here: https://www.umass.edu/honors/curriculum/courses.