Advanced Placement Computer Science A

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SIGCSE
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Advanced Placement
Computer Science Program

- AP CS A Course and Exam
  - College Curriculum Study Results
  - Next steps
9th Annual AP Report to the Nation

Change in AP® Exam participation and success over time

- Taken by graduates during high school
- Taken by graduates during high school scoring 3+

![Graph showing the number of AP Exams taken from 2002 to 2012, with a significant increase in recent years.](image)
The AP Program and the AP CS A Development Committee are committed to addressing disparity that currently exists with female and underrepresented students who are enrolled in the course and take the AP CS A exam.
AP Computer Science A

Proposed Updates to AP CS A Course and Exam

- Development of new AP CS Labs to replace the current GridWorld Case Study

- Updates to AP CS A curriculum based on CCS results and addition of language addressing challenges of broadening participation with female and underrepresented students

Note: Programming language will continue to be Java
## AP Computer Science College Curriculum Study
Sample: 117 Institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Private</th>
<th>Public</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle States</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwest</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>59</strong></td>
<td><strong>117</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following goals apply to the AP Computer Science A course. Students should be able to:

- Design and implement solutions to problems.
- Use and implement algorithms and data structures.
- Develop and select algorithms and data structures to solve problems.
- **Code fluently in an object-oriented paradigm using the programming language Java.**
- Read and understand a large program consisting of several classes and interacting objects. Students should be able to read and understand a description of the design and development process leading to such a program. (An example of such a program is the AP Computer Science Case Study.)
- Recognize the ethical and social implications of computer use.
Does your institution offer a course that is similar to the AP Computer Science A course?

- Yes: 74%
- No: 27%

N=117
### 2011 AP Computer Science College Curriculum Study Results

What programming language(s) are currently used in your introductory computer science course? (Select all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>10.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C++</td>
<td>25.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C#</td>
<td>2.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Java</td>
<td>57.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Python</td>
<td>29.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheme</td>
<td>5.10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other:**
- Alice
- Javascript / HTML
- Processing (Java variant)
- Phrogram
- Perl
- Fortran
- Matlab
- Ada
- Haskell
- ML
- Visual Basic

N=117
2011 AP Computer Science
College Curriculum Study Results

What programming language(s) will most likely be used in your introductory computer science course five years from now? (Select all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>9.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C++</td>
<td>22.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C#</td>
<td>5.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Java</td>
<td>52.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Python</td>
<td>51.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruby</td>
<td>3.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheme</td>
<td>7.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other:
- Processing
- MATLAB
- Not Java
- Perl
- Maybe Scala
- Ada
- Haskell
- Objective-C
- Typed language that supports parallelism?

Note: Increase in data for Python from 29.9% who indicate they currently use Python to 51.3%.

N=117
Based on your knowledge about the current case study for AP Computer Science A, rate the importance of including a case study:

- SI: 45%
- NI: 22%
- I: 25%
- VI: 9%

A combined 67% of participants rated the case study SI or NI.

N=117
Next Steps with the AP CS A Course and Exam

1. Exam (potentially starting May 2015) will not include GridWorld questions

2. New development of AP Computer Science A Labs

3. Empanel a Curriculum Review Committee to further analyze results from the 2011 study
   - Update the AP CS A Course and Exam
   - New Course Audit?

4. Conduct further studies as needed
   - Recruitment of diverse student population
   - Analysis of programming language
Thank You!
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