Requirements: Scientific Computing

Interdisciplinary

The Scientific Computing Concentration is an interdisciplinary program in the application of computers to scientific inquiry. A longer title for the program might be "Computing within a Scientific Context."

The concentration focuses on four major areas:

1. Computer program development, including the construction and implementation of data structures and algorithms
2. Mathematical modeling of natural phenomena (including cognitive processes) using quantitative or symbolic computer techniques
3. Analysis and visualization of complex data sets, functions and other relationships using the computer
4. Computer hardware issues, including the integration of computers with other laboratory apparatus for data acquisition

The overall aim is to prepare the student to use computers in a variety of ways for scientific exploration and discovery.

The Curriculum

The concentration in scientific computing requires a total of six courses of Kenyon coursework. SCMP 118 (Introduction to Computer Science) serves as a foundation course for the program, introducing students to programming and other essential ideas of computer science.

Contributory courses have been identified in biology, chemistry, economics, environmental studies, mathematics, political science, physics and statistics. In these courses, computational methods form an essential means for attacking problems of various kinds.

Students in the concentration also take at least one intermediate scientific computing course. These courses have computational methods as their main focus and develop or investigate these methods extensively.

In addition to regular courses that are identified as contributory or intermediate, particular special-topics courses or individual studies in various departments may qualify in one of these two categories. Students who wish to credit such a course toward the concentration in scientific computing should contact the program director at the earliest possible date.

The capstone course of the program is SCMP 401 (Advanced Scientific Computing), a project-oriented, seminar-style course for advanced students.

Requirements for the Concentration

Required Courses

SCMP 118: Introduction to Programming or PHYS 270: Introduction to Computational Physics
SCMP 401: Scientific Computing Seminar

Contributory Courses

BIOL 109Y–110Y: Introduction to Experimental Biology
BIOL 328: Global Ecology and Biogeography
CHEM 126: Introductory Chemistry Laboratory II
CHEM 336: Quantum Chemistry
CHEM 341: Instrumental Analysis
CHEM 370: Advanced Lab: Computational Chemistry
CHEM 374: Advanced Lab: Spectroscopy
ECON 205: Introduction to Econometrics
ECON 337: Portfolio Allocation and Asset Pricing
ECON 375: Advanced Econometrics
ENVS 261: Geographic Information Science
PHYS 140: Classical Physics
PHYS 141: First-Year Seminar in Physics
PHYS 146: Introduction to Experimental Physics
PHYS 240, 241: Fields and Spacetime and Laboratory
PHYS 345: Astrophysics and Particles
PHYS 380: Introduction to Electronics
PHYS 381, 382: Projects in Electronics 1, 2
PHYS 385, 386, 387: Advanced Experimental Physics 1, 2, 3
PSCI 280: Political Analysis
PSYC 410: Research Methods in Human Neuroscience
STAT 106: Elements of Statistics
STAT 116: Statistics in Sports
STAT 206: Data Analysis
STAT 216: Nonparametric Statistics

Intermediate Courses

BIOL 230: Computational Genomics
MATH 258: Mathematical Biology
MATH 291: Special Topic: Computational Neuroscience (spring 2021)
MATH 328: Coding Theory and Cryptography
MATH 347: Mathematical Models
MATH 348: Software System Design
MATH 368: Design and Analysis of Algorithms
SCMP 218: Data Structures and Program Design
SCMP 318: Software Development

SCMP 493: Individual Study
STAT 226: Statistical Computing with R
STAT 416: Linear Regression Models

Courses in Scientific Computing

Introduction to Programming

SCMP 118 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This course presents an introduction to computer programming intended both for those who plan to take further courses in which a strong background in computation is desirable and for those who are interested in learning basic programming principles. The course will expose the student to a variety of applications where an algorithmic approach is natural and will include both numerical and non-numerical computation. The principles of program structure and style will be emphasized. SCMP 118 may be paired with SCMP 218 or either may be paired with any mathematics or statistics course to satisfy the natural science diversification requirement. No prerequisite. Offered every semester.

Data Structures and Program Design

SCMP 218 CREDITS: 0.5

This course is intended as a second course in programming, as well as an introduction to the concept of computational complexity and the major abstract data structures (such as dynamic arrays, stacks, queues, link lists, graphs and trees), their implementation and application, and the role they play in the design of efficient algorithms. Students will be required to write a number of programs using a high-level language. SCMP 218 may be paired with SCMP 118 or either may be paired with any mathematics or statistics course to satisfy the natural science diversification requirement. Prerequisite: SCMP 118, MATH 138 or PHYS 270 or permission of instructor. Offered every other spring.

Software Development

SCMP 318 CREDITS: 0.5

This course gives students experience designing, implementing, testing and debugging moderately complex systems of software components that collectively form a multilayer application. There will be an emphasis on crafting quality code, designing and implementing effective user interfaces, and building multicomponent architectures using a mix of off-the-self and custom code. Topics will include inner process and inter-system communication, multi-threading, and the synchronization of shared resources, web interfaces and working with large data sets. Students will primarily use C++, but also will learn Javascript and other

languages as needed. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. SCMP 218 is recommended but not required. Prerequisite: MATH 138 or permission of instructor.

Scientific Computing Seminar

SCMP 401 CREDITS: 0.5 QR

This capstone course is intended to provide an in-depth experience in computational approaches to an individual topic of choice. Students will also be exposed to a broad range of computational application through presentations and discussion. Each student will give several presentation to the class throughout the semester. Permission of the instructor and program director required. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. Prerequisite: SCMP 118 or PHYS 270, senior standing, completion of at least 0.5 units of an intermediate course and at least 0.5 units of a contributory course.

Individual Study

SCMP 493 CREDITS: 0.25 - 0.5

The Individual Study is to enable students to explore a pedagogically valuable topic in computing applied to the sciences that is not part of a regularly offered SCMP course. A student who wishes to propose an individual study course must first find a SCMP faculty member willing to supervise the course. The student and faculty member then craft a course syllabus that describes in detail the expected coursework and how a grade will be assigned. The amount of credit to be assigned to the IS course should be determined with respect to the amount of effort expected in a regular Kenyon class. The syllabus must be approved by the director of the SCMP program. In the case of a small group IS, a single syllabus may be submitted and all students must follow the same syllabus. Because students must enroll for individual studies by the end of the seventh class day of each semester, they should begin discussion of the proposed individual study preferably the semester before, so that there is time to devise the proposal and seek departmental approval before the registrar's deadline. This interdisciplinary course does not count toward the completion of any diversification requirement. Permission of the instructor and program director required. No prerequisite.

Concentration

Courses that meet the requirement for this concentration:

BIOL 109Y	Introduction to Experimental Biology
BIOL 110Y	Introduction to Experimental Biology
BIOL 230	Computational Genomics

BIOL 328	Global Ecology and Biogeography
CHEM 126	Introductory Chemistry Lab II
CHEM 336	Quantum Chemistry
CHEM 341	Instrumental Analysis
CHEM 370	Advanced Lab: Computational Chemistry
CHEM 374	Advanced Lab: Spectroscopy
ECON 205	Introduction to Econometrics
ECON 337	Portfolio Allocation and Asset Pricing
ECON 475	Advanced Econometrics
ENVS 261	Geographic Information Science
MATH 258	Mathematical Biology
MATH 328	Coding Theory and Cryptography
MATH 347	Mathematical Models
MATH 348	Software and System Design
PHYS 140	Classical Physics
PHYS 141	First Year Seminar in Physics
PHYS 146	Modern Physics Lab
PHYS 240	Fields and Spacetime
PHYS 241	Fields and Spacetime Laboratory
PHYS 345	Astrophysics and Particles
PHYS 380	Introduction to Electronics
PHYS 381	Projects in Electronics 1
PHYS 382	Projects in Electronics 2
PHYS 385	Advanced Experimental Physics 1
PHYS 386	Advanced Experimental Physics 2
PHYS 387	Advanced Experimental Physics 3
PHYS 493	Individual Study

PSCI 280	Political Analysis
STAT 106	Elements of Statistics
STAT 116	Statistics in Sports
STAT 206	Data Analysis
STAT 216	Nonparametric Statistics
STAT 226	Statistical Computing in R
STAT 416	Linear Regression Models