**COMP492 Assignment RBP: Reflective blog post**

## Overview

The objective of this assignment is to write a blog post of 1000-2000 words reflecting on your Dickinson education, both as a computer science major and as a Dickinsonian. Specifically, you will respond to the following prompt:

**Giving detailed evidence from your own experience at Dickinson, describe your progress on some of the goals of the computer science major and the mission of a Dickinson College education.**

## Goals of the computer science major and of Dickinson College

Below is some information that will help to remind you of the goals of Dickinson College and the computer science major.

Dickinson’s mission is:

Dickinson College provides a useful, innovative and interdisciplinary education in the liberal arts and sciences to prepare students to lead rich and fulfilling lives of engaged global citizenship.

Here are some excerpts from the college website that summarize the goals of a Dickinson education:

Here, students are encouraged to be actively engaged with the wider world and challenged to think differently and act boldly. Dickinsonians are guided by a core set of tenets—to be decisive, useful, curious and unafraid to take risks.

We produce critical thinkers who see how everything is connected—graduates forever ready to make a difference.

This is how we’ve taught successful graduates of all kinds, from lawyers to researchers to writers to CEOs. Dickinson’s brand of liberal arts has been around for more than 200 years for one reason: It works.

Our distinct characteristics of independence, inquiry and engagement are rooted in a practical, real-world approach to the liberal arts. Grounded in the arts and sciences, a Dickinson liberal-arts education gives our students a deeper understanding of how the world works.

Whether they pursue a career as a teacher, lawyer, researcher, CEO or curator, graduates leave ready to make significant contributions in an ever-changing world.

Here are the learning goals of the computer science major:

* Students will develop mastery in problem solving applicable to a wide variety of disciplines.
* Students will be prepared for graduate study in computing or to begin a professional career in computing.
* Students will understand core concepts of computer science, including data structures, algorithms, computational complexity, and computability.
* Students will acquire the ability to recognize, design, apply and implement abstractions in complex computing systems.
* Students will acquire a technical computing skill set that is applicable, adaptable, and relevant to contemporary computing infrastructure, including large-scale and open source projects.
* Students will acquire the ability to work and collaborate in teams.
* Students will develop the ability to present technical and non-technical information, both orally and in written form, to a variety of audiences.
* Students will gain an understanding of social, legal and ethical issues raised by computing
* Students will acquire multiple perspectives on the value of computing, including its roles in: understanding the physical world, generating commercial value, advancing technology, and driving social change; and the transformational power of computing applied in service to the greater good.

## Submission

To submit your blog, first post it on any publicly accessible website. (This could be a personal website or a blogging site such as tumblr.com, for example.) Then, create a new file and folder called COMP492/README.md in your Dickinson WiD repository on GitHub. (Remember there is no way to create just a new folder on GitHub. Instead you create a new folder and a new file at the same time, by naming the new file COMP492/README.md.) Place a link to your blog post in that README.md file. As part of your submission process, you should clean up your Dickinson WiD repository. Make sure that all content is stored correctly within folders corresponding to the correct course (COMP232, COMP332, etc.). Part of the grade for this assignment is awarded for ensuring that your whole WiD repository is organized correctly.

## Rubric

To achieve an excellent grade, the reflective blog post should excel on the following aspects. It should:

* be of an appropriate length (1000-2000 words, although longer posts will not be penalized);
* be appropriate for a wide general audience, including your friends, family, classmates, professors, and prospective Dickinson students;
* use correct grammar and style;
* be interesting and engaging;
* demonstrate thoughtfulness and insight;
* include numerous specific details drawn from your own experience at Dickinson;
* address several of the goals above, including at least one Dickinson goal and at least one computer science major goal—it is definitely not expected that you would address all goals listed above;
* be accessible as a link from the README file in the COMP492 folder of your Dickinson WiD repository; and this repository must be correctly organized as described in the Submission section above.