

Women in Computing: an Investigation into the Reasons for Low Female Enrollment in the YSU CSIS Department

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Abstract

National surveys on higher education show that in the last five years the number of freshmen entering the computer science programs across the country dropped significantly. We know from previous studies that computer science, computer information systems, and information technology are not very popular degrees among females. Our research goal is to study the gender differences of the enrollment trends for the last five years for the Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS) Department and to compare them with national data.

After we unravel some of the mysteries surrounding the low female enrollment in the CSIS Department, we will endeavor to implement female recruitment and retention programs. Our goal is to use the information we gather regarding the lack of interest in CSIS among YSU females to fuel an initiative to effectively increase the number of women majoring in the CSIS Department.

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