Professional Development  
Computer Science

We had previously put in place a three credit course, Research Survey in which the students review and survey an area of research they are interested in. Every student gets to make one presentation and complete one report. The presentation is moderated by the instructor and the other students in the class ask questions. The instructor reads through the written report and makes written comments for the student to fix up and the instructor asks questions of the presenter whenever it happens that a slide is not completely understandable on its own, when it should be completely understandable or it is not completely understandable on the basis of the content of the previous slides.

This year we have in place a four credit course Computer Science Research in which students who are either working on their proposal exam or their dissertation research get to write up and present part of their research. The instructor moderates the presentation. The students in the class and the instructor ask questions. The instructor reads and comments on the student reports.

The first course is about explaining what research others have done. The second course is about explaining the new research that the student is doing. Both the courses are about communication and organization of knowledge. These are essential skills required in writing research publications, making conference presentations and making presentations in their future workplace.

Next year, the new Executive Officer will do an evaluation of the program and in particular the effectiveness of the two courses we have introduced in getting students to make better conference talks and better conference and journal publications.