

University of Cincinnati ACM-W Student Chapter

Application for ACM Student Chapter Excellence Program

Community Service Category

- Name and address of chapter

Name of Student Organization:

Association for Computing Machinery - Committee on Women (ACM-W)  
Student Chapter

Address/Mail Location:

Attn: Karen Davis  
RHODES 828  
2851 Woodside Dr  
Cincinnati OH 45221-0030

- Names and email addresses of chapter officers and faculty sponsor

Faculty Sponsor: **Dr. Karen Davis (karen.davis@uc.edu)**

President: **Sumeet Ranu (ranusk@mail.uc.edu)**

Vice President: **Mansi Patel (pate2me@mail.uc.edu)**

Treasurer: **Juanita Dickhaus (dickhajm@mail.uc.edu)**

Secretary/Webmaster: **Ellana Sell (sellen@mail.uc.edu)**

Community Service Chair: **Grace Gamstetter (gamstegl@mail.uc.edu)**

Graduate-Student Liaison Chair: **Surbhi Bhatnagar  
(bhatnash@mail.uc.edu)**

Membership and Outreach Chair: **Vaishnavi Kolimi  
(kolimisi@mail.uc.edu)**

- A brief description of your chapter and school including number of chapter members

The purpose of our organization is to retain and recruit women in computing at the University of Cincinnati. Our chapter has about 50-60 members. In its second year of being a student group, our organization has raised funding to aid our philanthropy and community engagement goals for the Cincinnati community, Microsoft Corporation and Google Corporation.

- Number of students at your school who take computer science and related courses, and typical majors of your chapter members.

The typical majors of our chapter members are Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering. The numbers of students enrolled in these programs are

CS: 321

CE: 255

EE: 329

There are a total of 905 students enrolled in computer-related majors.

- URL for your chapter home page:  
<http://www.ceas3.uc.edu/acm-w/>

### **Essay: Community Service**

At the University of Cincinnati, ACM-W is renowned for its excellent community service projects both on and off campus. We started our year off by reforming the learning atmosphere at Hughes High School, a local underprivileged school, and transforming its classroom environment. Our efforts were supported by a grant from the Google Corporation to promote CS in young minds. Equipped with state-of-the-art computers, educational materials that promote interactive learning among students, and open space for collaboration, the room has been dubbed the “makerspace.”

In addition to the makerspace, ACM-W also pulls in student volunteers from all branches of the Engineering College to serve as project mentors to the students of Hughes. Our volunteers provide guidance on time management, goal setting and programming techniques on all of their mentees’ projects. Volunteers, now officially termed “The Bearcat Coders”, have given the students of Hughes individualized assistance to their unique project demands. Therefore, the instructor has been given the freedom to allow her students to be get more creative when constructing their projects.

Not only does the chapter affect the local community, but it also reaches out to young girls all over the state through our annual DigiGirlz event. Since women comprise of only 7% of computer scientists at the University of Cincinnati, the chapter feels it’s extremely important to expose young girls to computer science at an early age. On November 13, 2015, over 50 girls came to the Microsoft Corporation in Cincinnati to participate in STEM-related activities, such as designing and building circuit boards. This event aligns with our chapters ongoing initiatives of recruitment and volunteering programs to motivate aspiring women into technology fields.

The students of the University also benefit from ACM-W's presence on campus. Recently, the chapter hosted a collaboration program with the Electrical and Computer Engineering Honor Society, Eta Kappa Nu to create a computer-science focused tutoring program for undergraduate students.

In the upcoming school year, the chapter plans to expand its community service and outreach programs by extending the Bearcat Coders program to local elementary schools. The members of our ACM-W chapter recognize that passion for computers and programming must start at a young age and therefore are planning to reach out to local elementary schools to introduce coding to students as young as 8 years old.

The ACM-W chapter at the University of Cincinnati has impacted the lives of the local community, university, and girls all over the state. This improvement has been the result of extensive computer-science-related educational community service. We hope to continue our efforts in philanthropy and community engagement and use grants like this to expand our program to other local schools.