

Course Justification

CIS 4XXX Empowering Emerging Tech Talent

The term “Tech Talent” often conjures the notion of a Software Engineer sitting in a Research and Development department coding away on the next great product. However, the world of Emerging Tech Talent is much more robust. Many of today’s students will take roles like IT Systems Administrator, Cybersecurity Analyst, AI Prompt Engineer, or Technical Product/Project Manager. Others will become Technopreneurs or skilled Contract Consultants, hopping from project to project as Solopreneurs. All these roles necessitate broad situational awareness to contextualize and navigate how to apply technical skills successfully.

For example, perhaps an AI Prompt Engineer or Data Scientist will be asked to identify customers who intend to *churn*? Or, perhaps a Techno Entrepreneur will need to *sell the value* created by his/her product to a Venture Capitalist. Or, perhaps the project objectives could be solved using more than one type of technology, and the consultant must make recommendations with pros and cons to the stakeholders (and actually, the best answer may not be the coolest code).

This course is not an “engineering course” per se, but rather a “course for Engineers” to stand out as top talent who are ready to make an impact. This course surveys four major sequences of knowledge and skills:

- Business and Technopreneurship
- Complex Projects
- Working with People and Teams
- Technical Career Development

Emerging Tech Talent is an elective targeted at students in their Senior year exploring their career options. Success will be measured by the number who are employed upon graduation.

As part of a university-wide initiative, the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences has partnered with The Tech Talent Academy and FIU Career and Talent Development (CTD) Department to align this course with the Career Milestones Guide (see Appendix) and will be delivered as a complement to the Career Readiness Micro-Credential. This course will specifically utilize key resources, like Clifton Strengths Finder, provided by CTD and ensures students apply these skills gained in this course using experiential learning that can be referenced on resumes or during interviews.