Michael Orsega, PhD

Department of Math and Computing
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(updated 1/2025)

EDUCATION

PhD: Computer Science
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

MAMS: Applied Mathematics, Computer Science Option
The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

BS: Physics
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of West Georgia

Jan 2019 – present	Graduate Program Coordinator (Computer Science)
Aug 2022 – present	Professor (Computer Science)
Aug 2015 – Aug 2022	Associate Professor (Computer Science)
Aug 2009 – Aug 2015	Assistant Professor (Computer Science)

Central Carolina Community College

Jun 2002 – Aug 2005	Lead Instructor (Computer Programming)
Aug 2001 – Jun 2002	Full Time Faculty

- Taught seated and online courses
- Created online Associates Degree in Computer Programming Curriculum
- Created Certificate in Computer Game Programming

North Carolina State University

Jan 2004 – Jun 2004	Adjunct Faculty

- Taught seated section of CS302 (Data Structures) to upper level CS majors

The University of Georgia

Aug 2000 – Jun 2001	Instructor of Record

- Taught CS1301 (Introduction to Programming in Java) to CS undergraduates

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Education to Go, Inc.
Author

- Developed four non-credit courses, each of which consists of 3,000 – 5,000 words of original, stand-alone text, exercises, quiz questions and a final exam
- Course subjects in computer programming using C#, Python, and Alice
- Current courses are offered at over 1,900 institutions worldwide
- Over 40,000 students have enrolled in these courses

PUBLICATIONS

Corley, J., Stanescu, A., Baumstark, L., **Orsega, M**. (2020). Paper Or IDE?: The Impact of Exam Format on Student Performance in a CS1 Course. In *Proceedings of the 51st ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education* (SIGCSE '20). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 706-712.

Baumstark, L., **Orsega, M**. (2016). Quantifying introductory CS students' iterative software process by mining version control system repositories. *Journal of Computing Sciences in Colleges.* 31 (6), 97-104.

Taylor, E., Skinner, C., McCallum, E., Poncy, B., **Orsega, M**. (2013). Enhancing Basic Academic Skills with Audio-Recordings. *Educational Research Quarterly,* 27(2):22-60.

Yaw, J., Skinner, C., **Orsega, M**., Parkhurst, J., Booher, J., Chambers, K. (2012). Evaluating a Computer-Based Sight-Word Reading Intervention in a Student with Intellectual Disabilities. *Journal of Applied School Psychology*, 28(4):354-366.

Orsega, M., Vander Zanden, B., Skinner, C. (2012). Experiments with Algorithm Visualization Tool Development. In *Proceedings of the 43rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education* (SIGCSE '12). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 559-564.

Orsega, M., Vander Zanden, B., Skinner, C. (2011). Two Experiments using Learning Rate to Evaluate an Experimenter Developed Tool for Splay Trees. In *Proceedings of the 42nd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education* (SIGCSE '11). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 135-140.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Orsega, M. and Baumstark, L. (2017). The Use of Version Control in CS2. Presentation at ACM-MidSoutheast Conference, Gatlinburg, TN.

Orsega, M, Wilson, C., Gunter, N. (2014). Measuring Effects on Problem Completion Time when Interspersing Brief Problems within Target Problem Sets for Multiplication Practice. Presentation at Mid-South Educational Research Association, Knoxville, TN.

Orsega, M., Carlson, T., Siver, D. (2012). Using Undergraduates to Build an Animated Flash Tutorial for CS1. Presentation at ACM-MidSoutheast Conference, Gatlinburg, TN.

Orsega, M. (2010). Sketchmate: An Instructional Tool for Splay Trees. Presentation at ACM-MidSoutheast Conference, Gatlinburg, TN.

Fuller, E., Krohn, K., **Orsega, M**., Skinner, C. Williams, J. (2009). The effects of Pacing on Academic Performance in Elementary School Students. Presentation at National Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Doctoral Consortium Participant (2008). ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) Annual Conference, Portland, OR.

Doctoral Consortium Participant (2007). ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE) Annual Conference, Covington, KY.

Orsega, M (2006). Making the Most of Java 1.5. Presentation at Course Technology – The Conference 2006, San Francisco, CA.

Orsega, M (2005). Making Programming Fun with Mobile Devices. Presentation at Course Technology – The Conference 2005, Orlando, FL.

Orsega, M (2005). Java 1.5 – The New Java. Presentation at Course Technology – The Conference 2005, Orlando, FL.

Orsega, M (2002). An Introduction to Programming in Java. Presentation at North Carolina Computer Instructors Association (NCCIA) Spring 2002 Conference, Morehead City, NC.

GRANTS

2015 UWG Faculty Research Grant, "Best Practices for Developing a Web Application to Enhance Basic Math Education", $550

2014 UWG Institutional STEM Excellence (UWise) Mini Grant, "The Use of Video Lessons to Supplement In-class Lectures", $6,500

2014 UWG Faculty Research Grant, "Developing a Web Application to Enhance Basic Math Education", $1,250

2013 UWG Student Research Assistant Program, "Evaluating Instruction using Custom-Built Tutorials", $2,000

2013 UWG Faculty Research Grant, "Investigating the Use of Technology to Enhance Student Learning", $550

2012 UWG College of Science and Mathematics Grant Development Initiative, "Investigating the Use of Technology to Enhance Student Learning", $2,500

2012 UWG Institutional STEM Excellence (UWise) Mini Grant, "Improving Instruction and Enhancing Student Success in STEM Disciplines", $7,500

2012 UWG Student Research Assistant Program, "Evaluating Instruction using ASP", $2,000

2012 UWG Faculty Research Grant, "Investigating Techniques to Help Increase Student Persistence When Working Homework Exercises", $675

2011 UWG Faculty Research Grant, "Increasing Student Persistence with Math Problems", $1,309.50

2011 UWG Institutional STEM Excellence (UWise) Mini Grant, "Developing Flash Video Tutorials", $7,500

PROGRAM COMMITTEE SERVICE

Association for Computing Machinery Southeast Conference, 2024

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

PCEP – Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer, 2024
Oracle Certified Professional, Java SE11 Developer, 2021
Oracle Certified Master, Java Programming SE6 Developer, 2014
Oracle Certified Professional, Java SE6 Programmer, 2011

AWARDS

COSM Nominee for Regent's Teaching Excellence Award for Online Teaching: 2015
Outstanding Graduate Teacher of the Year, UWG Computer Science Department: 2014, 2017
Outstanding Graduate Teacher of the Year, UWG Department of Math and Computing, 2024
Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher of the Year, UWG Computer Science Department: 2012
The University of Tennessee Citation for Extraordinary Professional Promise Graduate: 2008
Teaching Assistant of the Year, CS Department, The University of Tennessee: 2006