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William P Abrams* (abramswp@longwood.edu), Department of Mathematics and Computer Scienc, Longwood University, 201 High Street, Farmville, VA 23909. Discrete Mathematics for First Year Mathematics and Computer Science Majors. Preliminary report.

In Fall 2013 the Longwood Department of Mathematics and Computer Science began requiring Discrete Mathematics for all Mathematics and Computer Science majors. This course was designed to be taken during the first year. It was intended to make these students aware that not everything was calculus and give them a course that would be more directed at problem solving and less directed at getting them to the next course. The course was not originally intended to include either proofs or programming. I will talk about additional goals this course acquired and why, the problem with using the textbooks that currently exist with first year students at a small state comprehensive university, and the problem with using proofs and not using proofs. In addition I will mention the topics we chose to include and why and the problems that come with teaching discrete math with no prerequisites to first year majors. I will also talk about the changes I made teaching it my second time and whether reducing the number of topics covered, trying to flip this course a little, and concentrating on getting the students to be able to use and understand definitions gave better results.

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