How to Join our Lab

We are always looking for new members! However, because the lab regularly works with valuable robotics and often deals with activities that require special safety training, we have a ranking system that you must progress through before you are allowed full membership.

**Apprentice**
- Welcome to join group meetings (unless they are specifically closed-session) to learn about what is being worked on. *Lab access only allowed if accompanied by knight or above.*
- No work or commitment requirements
- **Requirements to reach this rank:**
  - An interest in cognitive robotics research, and in working/learning
  - Just come in to ET118 whenever the door is open and check things out / ask questions. If the door is closed, while people are inside, then a restricted meeting is happening.

**Journeyman [Undergraduate Researcher-in-Training]**
- Work with sponsor (a qualified lab member serving as your mentor), who will assign tasks for you to help out with the lab, and also assign readings for you to learn what you need to know to work with us
- *Lab access only allowed when directly working with sponsor, or if sponsor has given permission to work on a task (in which case, the journeyman must be working on task while in lab).*
- **Requirements to reach this rank:**
  - Have a valid sponsor
  - Passed orientation (these are scheduled once or twice per semester; ask someone in the lab for the next orientation date. These are also a good opportunity to meet sponsors!)

**Knight [Junior Undergraduate Researcher]**
- Taking a research course with ACoRL director
- Weekly mandatory responsibilities (required by course)
- Members of this rank (and all above):
  - can manage orientations
  - can sponsor journeymen (maximum one at a time)
May be in lab without a higher-ranked member present, but if you are using the lab excessively for purposes other than ACoRL-related work, access (and rank) may be revoked by higher-ranked members.

- Continues to work with sponsor, but sponsor now serves only a supporting role (sponsor is free to take on other apprentices)
- **Requirements to reach this rank:**
  - At least one semester as journeyman
  - Approval from sponsor (based on satisfactory completion of assigned tasks), *plus approval from at least two additional lab members with ranks of gilded knight or above.* Approval is an acknowledgement that the lab member has (1) a sufficient level of knowledge of ACoRL research to work on its projects, (2) has contributed to the lab significantly, and (3) can be trusted to continue to contribute to the lab.
  - Approval from director to take research course (requests will not be considered if approval from sponsor + two additional lab members (above) hasn’t yet been obtained)

**Gilded Knight [Senior Undergraduate Researcher]**
- are able to sign up for a lab key
- Currently working either as paid employee of lab (*These positions are very limited. Employment is at the discretion of the lab director.*) or taking an ACoRL research course not for the first time
- Weekly mandatory responsibilities (required by employment)
- No longer required to work with a sponsor
- **Requirements to reach this rank:**
  - Taught at least two orientations
  - Passed research course at least once
  - Successfully sponsored at least one person to knighthood
  - Approval from director (approval is not guaranteed and may depend on many factors, especially # of positions available)

**Master Knight [Graduate Researcher]**
- Master’s students only
- Carries out graduate-level research and assists in the guidance and satisfactory completion of lab-related projects
- Manages ACoRL meetings and all other lab projects in director’s absence
- **Requirements to reach this rank:**
  - Be a knight (IVs 1 or 2) that is a thesis-option graduate student with ACoRL director as thesis advisor

**Emeriti**
- Same access rights as knights, but participation in projects is optional
- Expected to serve advisory role; can also serve as sponsor
- **Requirements to reach this rank:**
  - Have been a knight formerly
  - Still an enrolled student
  - Not currently a paid employee of lab or enrolled in research course

**FOR QUESTIONS:** Email lab director, Dr. John Licato, at licatoj@ipfw.edu.