Resolution of the University Florida Faculty Senate, representing the faculty of the University of Florida, in opposition to legislation allowing two credits of computer coding courses to substitute for foreign language study.

Whereas … human language and coding language are inherently different;

People use language to express thoughts and feelings to each other, while computer coding does not express thoughts or feelings. Nor does the study of computer coding allow students to gain the intercultural skills, insight, and perspectives to know how, when, and why to express what to whom and thus does not meet nationally accepted language learning standards.
(https://www.actfl.org/publications/all/world-readiness-standards-learning-languages)

Whereas … research has consistently shown lifelong cognitive benefits to foreign language study;

Knowledge of a second language has been shown to confer a wide array of cognitive benefits on the individual at all life stages, ranging from improved problem solving and cognitive flexibility to improved test scores and narrowed achievement gaps.

Whereas … those in the tech industry itself do not believe that coding should replace foreign language study;

Computer technology companies Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Amazon have all publicly stated that the most logical place to incorporate coding classes in a high school curriculum would be among the sciences and mathematics, and *not* instead of foreign language study.

Whereas … UF's Quality Enhancement Plan has the specifically stated goal of Internationalizing the Gator Nation;

The "Learning without Borders" plan was designed to further internationalize the undergraduate learning experience on campus, in support of the university's mission and goals. Such internationalization can be enhanced through language study but not through the study of computer coding.
(http://sacs.aa.ufl.edu/media/sacsaaufledu/files/UF-QEP-2014.pdf)

Therefore … computer coding should not be accepted as a substitute or alternative to a world language course. The two are fundamentally different skill sets, employed under different circumstances, for different purposes, and with different effects on the individual.