What is Computer Science?

Computer science is shaping the future. A degree in computer science can help shape yours.

Computer scientists invent the future by developing architectures and techniques for more advanced computing, and by developing the applications that operate within those frameworks. Computing has made possible undertakings such as landing the Curiosity rover on Mars, managing patient care to avoid undesired drug interactions, revolutionizing K-12 teaching and learning through the use of mobile devices, and even the creation of a computer that can win at Jeopardy.

As a CS student, you’ll gain expertise in the development of software systems for applications, in creating and analyzing algorithms for a variety of applications, or in designing a new and emerging area of specialization. It’s a field of unbounded potential – get ready to change the world!

Computer science is an integral part of our lives, shaping virtually everything from the objects around us to the ways in which we communicate, travel, work, and play. And the computer revolution has just begun – CS is now a key enabler for discovery and innovation in most other fields of endeavor, making it an incredibly relevant course of study.

Michigan CS students have the opportunity for unique experiences through participation in programming events, interdisciplinary student teams, and student organizations.

Hacking and Programming Events

While at Michigan, CS students will find many opportunities to hack, collaborate, build, and gain valuable experience while participating in hackathons and other programming events that are organized by students, the University, or company sponsors.

Multidisciplinary Student Teams

Many CS students participate in student teams that design and build systems to compete in national and international competitions. CS is a critical component for team success. These teams include Michigan Autonomous Aerial Vehicles, UM:Autonomy, U-M Programming, U-M Solar Car, Hybrid Racing, and the Mars Rover Team. Other groups that advance societal good also need CS students, including BLUELab, E-MAGINE, and M-HEAL.

CS Student Organizations

Michigan Hackers: Experimenting with technology
gECS: Girls in electrical engineering and computer science
HKN: Eta Kappa Nu honor society
Wolverine Soft: Video game development
CSE Scholars: Students promoting the field of CS

cs.lsa.umich.edu

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Programs in Computer Science

Computers are everywhere, from inside our cars to on our desktops, and are affecting almost all aspects of our lives. The fast rate of innovation in computer technology has created many new and exciting opportunities for students with Computer Science undergraduate degrees.

Major in Computer Science

Gain the knowledge to solve big problems in new ways. With a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science, you’ll be ready to make an impact in healthcare, entertainment, business, the performing arts, education, transportation, the environment – or virtually any other part of your world.

The computer science program through the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts requires students to have a solid foundation in computer software, hardware, and theory, but also gives each student ample opportunity to take advanced electives in areas of computer science such as databases, architecture, networks, artificial intelligence, and graphics, or in emerging interdisciplinary areas such as electronic commerce, web information systems, and computer game design.

Minor in Computer Science

Gaining a Minor in Computer Science is a smart way to broaden your horizons and make yourself more marketable to employers. The CS Minor is open to students in LSA, Music, College of Engineering, and the Ross Business School.

Innovative Tracks of Study

Artificial Intelligence: Learn the fundamentals of AI through theoretical, experimental, and applied investigations of intelligent systems.

Bioinformatics: Advance your knowledge of computational biology and take advantage of opportunities in the biotechnology industry.

Data and Information: Meet the challenges of big data via information management and through database design and implementation.

Economics and Computation: Build your capability to think economically about computation, and computationally about economics and markets.

Robotics and Vision: Learn the fundamentals of using robots as mobile information gathering and decision-making platforms.

Security: Learn concepts and practices for secure hardware and software design, modern cryptography, and critical security applications.

Software Development: Gain the ability to analyze, design, test, and maintain large software systems and the team skills needed to engage in these efforts.

Software Systems: Tackle the challenges associated with creating operating systems, compilers, database systems, and networks.

Theory of Computation: Gain the rigorous mathematical training applicable to a variety of current and emerging computing challenges.

Future Outlook

Entrepreneurship

Computer science students are uniquely empowered to launch new ventures with the potential to transform industries and lives. You’ll find student groups and campus resources that can help get your startup off the ground, including the Center for Entrepreneurship, the TechArb incubator, and MPowered. A CS degree, the connections you develop at U-M, and the opportunity to transform new ideas is all part of the programs that help you in realizing your dream.

Companies Hiring Recent Grads:

Amazon
Apple Inc.
Arbor Networks
Arbomed
Ashburn Dental
Bancroft Network
Bancroft Solutions
Bloomberg
Bovis
Boeing
Bouche Consulting Health
Cisco Systems
Crain's
Dow Chemical USA
DowDuPont
DWP Trading Group
Dyn
Electronic Arts
Enventive Software Studios
Epic
Facebook
Ford Motor Company
General Electric
GoPro
Heartland Park
--- and many others

Students work together to solve a problem during a course.

Students are working on a project to bring automated vehicles to Ann Arbor.

A student meets with a job recruiter at the fall career fair.

Students often have multiple job offers by the time they graduate.

Michigan CS graduates are highly sought after, and our students often have multiple job offers by the time they graduate.

Full-Time Positions – Median annual salaries (2014)

- $101,500 (with Master’s)

Internships – Median monthly pay (2014)

- $5,000 (during undergrad)

- $6,000 (during Master’s)

Innovative Tracks of Study

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Bovis
Boeing
Bouche Consulting Health
Cisco Systems
Crain's
Dow Chemical USA
DowDuPont
DWP Trading Group
Dyn
Electronic Arts
Enventive Software Studios
Epic
Facebook
Ford Motor Company
General Electric
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Heartland Park
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