

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Computer Science

Minor in Computer Science

Certificate of Study in Bioinformatics (See Certificates of Study)

Department Chair

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The Program

Students who graduate from this program will have demonstrated:

- computational thinking, a way of problem solving which draws upon central computing concepts, such as abstraction, virtualization, algorithmic development and analysis, recursion, resource management, and induction
- self-directed learning, whereby graduates may maintain their currency in the field by formulating their own learning goals, identifying learning strategies, identifying available resources, implementing learning strategies, and evaluating learning outcomes
- communicating and collaborating, which pairs the written and oral skills to deliver information with the ability to respect and embrace the diversity others bring to a team
- the ability to produce and digest technical documents.

The Computer Science program prepares students for roles across the breadth of computer science, in industry, service, and research. Our approach to computer science includes a rigorous and balanced core of mathematical, theoretical, and practical knowledge about computation. Students in our department spend more instructional hours on topics central to computer science than at many similar institutions, while electives in topics like robotics and bioinformatics programming challenge students to deeply employ the tools of their discipline. Our approach also emphasizes active engagement of students in the learning process both in and beyond the classroom. To support this approach, faculty vigorously pursue professional development.

Majors have access to a departmental lab, which provides dual-booting Linux and Windows platforms with many language compilers. Our Internet Teaching Laboratory (ITL) provides an isolated network for network design experimentation and student

investigations in computer security. The ITL also serves as the home of our parallel cluster mini-supercomputer *deus ex machina*, and storage for a collection of robot kits used in neighboring lab spaces. Servers for n-tier application development are also available to students.

Students participate in the Computer Science Club, affiliated with the national Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Many students enjoy internship opportunities. Faculty typically hold memberships with professional organizations including the ACM, IEEE Computer Society, and the Consortium for Computing in Small Colleges.

Job Prospects

Numerous careers are available to graduates in this major, including software engineering and development; network maintenance, implementation, and design; database design and web interface development; scientific computing; and innumerable more. Many of our students pursue graduate studies in areas such as computer graphics, parallel computing, man-machine interfaces, data communications, computational philosophy, expert systems, artificial intelligence, embedded computer applications, distributed systems, and networking.

The job forecast for computer specialists is outstanding. More than 750,000 new jobs will be created between 2008 and 2018, according to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. An analysis of their data by Calvin College revealed that 71% of the anticipated increase in all science and engineering jobs will be in computing. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reports consistently high wage growth across the industry.

Preparation

Oral and written communication skills are central to success in college science majors, including computer science. Prospective students should take as many English, speech, and mathematics courses as possible, as well as general science courses.

Students transferring from a community college should also take courses meeting the Transfer Model Curriculum (TMC) for computer science. We strive to quickly graduate students meeting the TMC and general education requirements.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

For a description of degree requirements to be fulfilled in addition to those listed below

for the major, please see "The Bachelor's Degree" section of the catalog, pp. 66-81.

A minimum grade of C- must be earned in all courses required for the major. Prerequisite courses must be passed with a minimum grade of C-.

Lower Division

CS 111	(4) CS Foundations 1
CS 112	(4) CS Foundations 2
CS 211	(4) Data Structures
CS 212	(4) Algorithms
CS 243	(4) Architecture
STAT 108	(3) Elementary Statistics, or
STAT 108i	(3) Elementary Statistics with Integrated Support [Coreq: STAT 8]
MATH 109	(4) Calculus I (preferred), or
MATH 105	(3) Calculus for the Biological Sciences & NR
MATH 253	(3) Discrete Mathematics

Upper Division

CS 325	(4) Database Design
CS 328	(4) Web Apps Using Databases
CS 346	(4) Telecommunications & Networks
CS 374	(4) Operating Systems
CS 449	(4) Computer Security
CS 458	(4) Software Engineering
CS 461	(4) Computational Models

Choose two of the following:

CS 232	(3) Python Programming
CS 235	(3) Java Programming
CS 237	(3) Bioinformatics Programming
CS 279	(4) Introduction to Linux
CS 280/CS 280L	(1-3) Selected Topics in Computing
CS 444	(4) Robotics
CS 480/CS 480L	(1-4) Advanced Topics in Computing
CS 482	(1-4) Internship
CS 499	(1-4) Directed Study
MATH 351	(4) Introduction to Numerical Analysis

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MINOR

CS 111	(4) CS Foundations 1
CS 112	(4) CS Foundations 2

Plus three additional approved Computer Science courses, at least two of which are upper division, with total units equal to at least 18 units. These courses may not include general education courses.

