Specialized Areas of Study in CS

Select courses in specialized areas of study, or take courses across disciplines to satisfy Eight (8) upper-level requirements for the BS:

- 311 Algorithms
- 3 CS300+ (may include IE Req)
- 3 CS400+
- 1 CS300+ (or Outside Approved Elec)

Courses offered in CS cover many areas, including:

Artificial Intelligence
Computer Architecture
Data Science
Information Retrieval
Natural Language Processing
Networking
Robotics, Vision and Graphics
Security and Privacy
Software Engineering
Software Systems
Theory of Computation

Course Offering Plan:

https://www.cics.umass.edu/content/course-offering-plan

MY PLANNED UPPER-LEVEL CS 1 311 2 CS300+ (IE 320||326) _ _ _ 3 CS300+ _ _ _ 4 CS300+ _ _ _ 5 CS400+ _ _ _ 6 CS400+ _ _ _ 7 CS400+ _ _ _ 8 CS300+/OE _ _ _

MY PLANNED UPPER-LEVEL CS
(1) 311
② CS300+ (IE 320 326)
③ CS300+
④ CS300+
⑤ CS400+
6 CS400+
⑦ CS400+
8 CS300+/OE

MY PLANNED UPPER-LEVEL CS
① 311 ② CS300+ (IE 320 326) ③ CS300+ ④ CS300+ ⑤ CS400+ ⑥ CS400+ ⑦ CS400+ ⑧ CS300+/OE

Junior Year Writing (JYW) Requirement: Computer science majors must also take CompSci 305 *Social Issues in Computing.* The University's JYW requirement must be taken at UMass Amherst. Secondary CS Majors may petition to use an approved JYW course from another department in place of 305. Email upd@cs.umass.edu.

Integrative Experience (IE) Requirement: Students satisfy the University's IE Requirement by taking an approved IE course in their primary major at UMass Amherst. CompSci 320 Software Engineering and CompSci 326 Web Programming (Spring 2014 or later) are currently the designated IE courses for CS and also count as a CS Elective.

When does a class count for the CS major?

A computer science major may not use any course taken on a pass/fail basis to fulfill the computer science program requirements (including mathematics, lab science, and computer science introductory, core, and upper-level elective courses). Students must maintain an average grade of at least C (2.0) in <u>all</u> courses used to satisfy the major degree requirement (see major GPA on the ARR). While courses with grades of C-, D+, or D may be counted toward the degree, students normally repeat these courses so that the new grade will replace the old in their GPA calculation (Check <u>Academic Regulations</u> for rules about repeating courses). A grade *below* C will normally not suffice as a prerequisite for a later course. For example, enrolling in COMPSCI 220 requires a grade of "C or better" in COMPSCI 187.

What is an approved CS elective? https://www.cics.umass.edu/degrees

Any regularly numbered COMPSCI course at the 300-level or above may be used as an elective, excluding COMPSCI 305, or if it is specifically barred as an elective in its course description. Many COMPSCI 500-level courses that are open to undergraduates may also be used for CS Electives.

- Experimental courses (x90), seminar courses (x91) and special topics (x97) may only be used as CS electives at the 300-level (or above) if specifically stated in the course description.
- CS Capstone courses (499T/P) may be used with UPD approval*.
- Independent studies (x96) at the 300-level (or above) are reviewed for elective credit via the independent study approval process when registering*.
- If a course is <u>not</u> showing correctly on the ARR, we will assume that you will use it for the major and will fix your ARR. Only email upd@cs.umass.edu if you opt <u>not</u> to use any of these courses.

NOTE: *Only 3 credits of either COMPSCI 499P/T or COMPSCI 396/496/596 may be used toward CS Major requirements.

Details about your ARR and how/when we will fix it:

ARR for CS Majors may show missing major requirements if students are taking **COMPSCI x90-x99** courses. Course descriptions note when <u>these</u> types of courses satisfy CS Electives (300-, 400-, 500-level). Graduate level (690-699) courses will <u>not</u> indicate whether it counts for CS Major requirements in the course description and are vetted by the UPD. https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/courses

REMEMBER: No P grades for major requirements.

IMPORTANT: The ARR may <u>not</u> get fixed for **in-progress** courses (or even completed courses in some cases) until *at least after mid-semester date*, but it could be closer to, or at the time of major clearance during your last semester (after grades post). Why?

- Some students take more courses than needed for a particular requirement group, i.e., CS300+, and we try to use the higher grades when 'fixing' the ARR.
- Exceptions or 'fixes' on the ARR are not bumped out if you do better in another course that satisfies the same requirement group.
- Students cannot elect P/F on major requirements, so we wait until at least after midsemester date before fixing the ARR. NOTE: if we decide to fix an ARR before this and a student receives a P grade, then the course will be removed from satisfying a requirement at the time of major clearance, which may impact degree completion.
- Some students prefer to 'save' 500-level+ course(s) for a graduate program, when applicable (course cannot count toward any undergraduate degree requirements -ortoward the 120 credits/150 credits for a dual degree).