Applying to Computer Science Degree Programs
September, 2017

Tim Richards
Undergraduate Program Director
Outline

People

Criteria

Deadlines

Application

Review

Decisions

Notification

Advising

Registration/Overrides

Re-Application
People You Should Know

**Darlene Fahey**
Undergraduate Program Manager

**Tara LaFlamme**
Undergraduate Program Assistant

**Greg Boisseau**
CICS Exploratory Track Advisor

**Bill Verts**
Peer Advising (ACE) Manager

[https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/ace-cs-ug-advising-center](https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/ace-cs-ug-advising-center)
Computer Science Community

1009 Majors

45 Minors

250 Applications a Year

200+ Graduates a Year (Feb, May, Sep)

580 Graduate Students

70 Faculty
Undergraduate Programs

Computer Science Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor of Science in CS
Bachelor of Arts in CS
Minor in Computer Science

Informatics Major

Started in BDIC (2014)
Talk to Michelle Trim
mtrim@cs.umass.edu
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (BS)  
Comprehensive training in Computer Science

Goals

Graduate Study in CS

Most Technical Entry-Level Positions in Industry

Course Requirements

14 Computer Science

4 Math

2 Majors-Level Lab Science
Math and Science Details

Math
Two semesters of engineering-level calculus (M131, M132)
Linear algebra (M325)
Multivariate calculus (M233)

Science
Two majors level lab science
CHEM 111 (or 121), CHEM 112 (or 122)
PHYSICS 151 (or 181), PHYSICS 152 (or 182)
GEOLOGY 101/lab (or 103/131, 105/131)
Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science (BA)

Computing Focused Degree in Computer Science

Goals

To apply sophisticated computing techniques to a second discipline.

Course Requirements

10 Computer Science
3 Math
Foreign Language
4-course Concentration
Other Requirements

Writing

Junior Year Writing (COMPSCI 305)

Foreign Language

BA Only

General Education

UMass Requirements

Integrative Experience (COMPSCI 320 or 326)
Minor in Computer Science

Goals

Add CS background to your primary discipline.

Course Requirements

2 entry-level computer science (COMPSCI 121, 187)

2 200-level computer science (COMPSCI 220, 230, 240, 250)

1 200-level or above computer science
Applying to the Computer Science Major

Two Paths into the Major

Admissions Office

By Application

About 25% of CS majors join us through our application process.

You can find out much of this information here:
https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/major-change-cs
Submitting an Application

You must submit an application to be considered!

Where is the application and when do I apply?

[https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/major-change-cs](https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/major-change-cs)

- After Fall add/drop ends (~ Sep 19 - Oct 1)
- After Spring add/drop ends (~ Feb 6 - Mar 1)

What is on the application?

- General information (name, email, GPA, spire id, grad date, major)
- Which major program you applying to (BS, BA)
- Which CS courses you have completed already
  - CS Predictor courses, CS upper-level, Other courses (e.g., MATH, SCIENCE)
Admittance to CS / Receiving a Contract

After submitting an application there are 3 possibilities

1. **You are admitted directly into the major**
   You have satisfied CS predictor courses and did well.
   Typically requires contract on upper-level courses.

2. **You receive a contract**
   You receive a contract indicating courses and grades you must achieve.
   You are considered an Applicant on Contract (AOC)
   You are given priority into CS courses to satisfy the contract

3. **You are denied**
Application Process

When should I apply?

You must be enrolled in at least CS 187 and MATH 131
You must apply before becoming a senior
Determined by total credit hours

Application Deadlines:
October 1, 2017 (for Spring 2018)
March 1, 2018 (for Fall 2018)
Application Process Communication

Where do I send my application?

EMAIL PDF to CSApply@cs.umass.edu (11:59pm deadline)

PAPER FORM to CS Main Office (5:00 pm deadline)
  (Oct 1 falls on a Sunday, so 5pm deadline is for Friday before)

Email will be sent within 1 week to confirm receipt of application.

Contact CSApply@cs.umass.edu if confirmation is not received.
Application Repeats

What happens if I do not satisfy my contract?

You must reapply

Up to 3 consecutive applications are allowed

If you are on contract #2 or #3, have a plan B!

You need to do all you can to make your best case in your first attempt at the CS predictor courses:

CS 121, 187 & MATH 131, 132
Making Your Case

Demonstrate Proficiency in Predictor Courses

>= B+ in MATH 131/132
>= B+ in COMPSCI 121/187
>= B+ in upper-level CS course (if necessary)

Good Overall Performance

>= C in all other courses

Must be at UMass - total of at least 12 credits

No P/F on predictor courses, major requirements, or course counted in the the 12 contract credits.

Overall GPA >= 3.0
Applicant Contracts

Plan to Make Your Case

Apply, register, and request overrides or get on waitlist as soon as possible!

If Your Situation Changes

Unable to take contract courses?
Contact upd@cs.umass.edu immediately!

Failure to do so may violate your contract and use up an application!
Tips, Advice, and Strategies

CS Application != CS Major
It gives you priority to contract courses only.
Be prompt with registration

More CS Courses != BETTER
Focus on contract courses
Do not overload with extra courses
Even if you are behind in CS!

Do NOT go too far into CS as applicant
This is risky if you do not meet your contract!
We consider your entire cumulative transcript
Good Luck!