COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND COMPUTER SCIENCES

# Applying to Computer Science Degree Programs
# October 1, 2019 Deadline

Tim Richards
Undergraduate Program Director

# People You Should Know

**Tim Richards**
Undergraduate Program Director

**Darlene Fahey**
Undergraduate Program Manager

**Tara LaFlamme**
Undergraduate Program Assistant

**Greg Boisseau and Ben Conrick**
CICS Exploratory Track Advisors

**CICS Advising**
Peer Advising
https://www.cics.umass.edu/content/undergraduate-peer-advising

# Undergraduate Programs

**Computer Science Undergraduate Programs**

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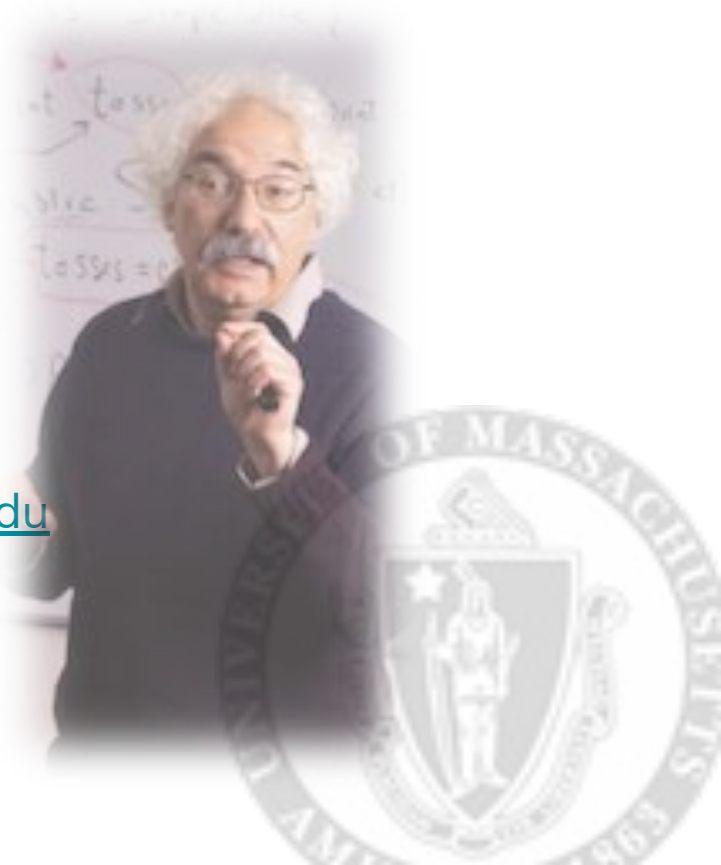- Bachelor of Arts in CS
- Minor in Computer Science

**Informatics Major**

Talk to Fabienne Boisson
fboisson@umass.edu or informatics@cics.umass.edu
See http://cics.umass.edu/informatics

*You may only be on contract for either CS or Informatics - not both!*

# 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 (M235)

Multivariate calculus (M233) or Statistics I (STAT515)

**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 Outside Concentration

# Other Requirements

**Writing:**

Junior Year Writing (COMPSCI 305)

**Foreign Language:**

BA Only (CICS College Requirement)

**General Education:**

UMass Requirements

Integrative Experience (COMPSCI 320 or 326)

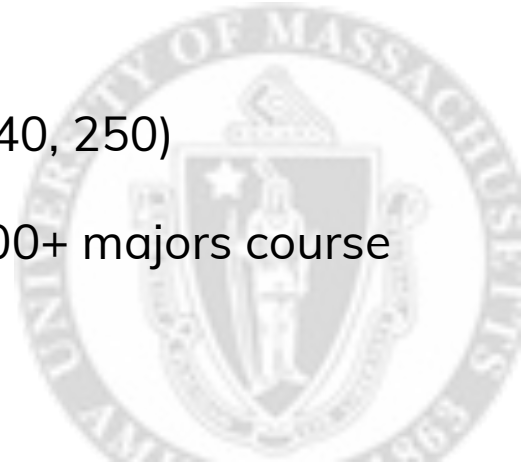# Minor in Computer Science

**Goals:**

Add CS background to your primary discipline.

**Course Requirements:**

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

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

1 200-level computer science core or computer science 300+ majors course

# How to apply to CS

- Attend Orientation Session

- Submit an Application

    - You must be in at least COMPSCI 187 and MATH 131

    - Must **not be in or passed** your 5th full-time semester

# Successful Application for Major Change to CS

In recent semesters, students obtaining a **B or better** in all *predictor courses* with at least two of these predictors taken at UMass Amherst with an overall **GPA of at least 3.00** at the end of the contract term have been admitted.

**Predictor Courses:**

- COMPSCI 121 Problem Solving with Computers
- COMPSCI 187 Programming with Data Structures
- MATH 131 Calculus I
- MATH 132 Calculus II

# Successful Application for Major Change to CS

**At least 2 of the 4 predictor courses must be taken at UMass Amherst.**
CS/MATH courses beyond usual predictors, may be required if predictors are taken elsewhere.

**Predictor Courses:**

- COMPSCI 121 Problem Solving with Computers
- COMPSCI 187 Programming with Data Structures
- MATH 131 Calculus I
- MATH 132 Calculus II

# Successful Application for Major Change to CS

**Repeated courses are generally not considered** as predictors, requiring CS/MATH beyond usual predictors.

**Predictor Courses:**

- COMPSCI 121 Problem Solving with Computers
- COMPSCI 187 Programming with Data Structures
- MATH 131 Calculus I
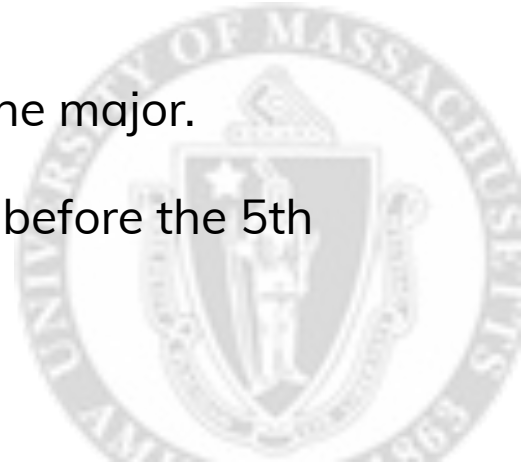- MATH 132 Calculus II

# Goals of the CS Application Process

- To **maximize opportunities** to become a CS Major (up to 2 consecutive applications) after demonstrating success in predictor courses

- To declare the CS Major (primary/secondary) **before** the 5th full-time semester at UMass Amherst.

The application process is designed for student success in the major.

Failing to satisfy 2 consecutive applications or not applying before the 5th full-time semester is not indicative of CS student success.

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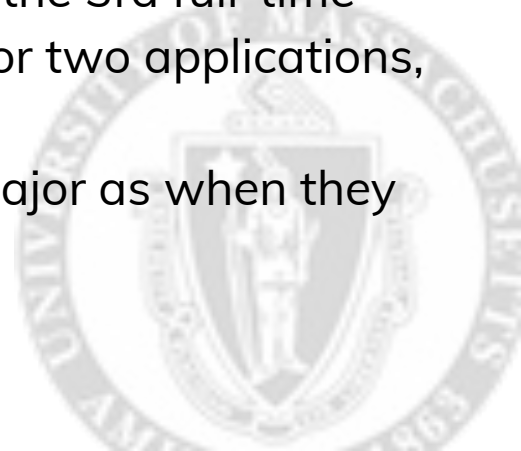
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- **Apply at earliest opportunity.** Apply during (or before) the 3rd full-time semester at UMass Amherst to maximize opportunity for two applications, if needed.
- **Readmitted** students return to UMass with the same major as when they left and may apply prior to 5th full-time semester only.

# Time Frame

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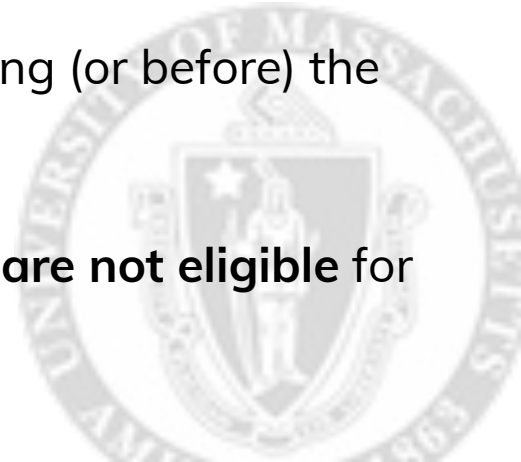
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- Applications submitted after the 4th full-time semester **are not eligible** for consideration (see CS Minor).

# Submitting an Application

**Two Application Deadlines:** October 1 and March 1

Applications are available from the CS major change site after Add/Drop ends.
https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/major-change-cs

**How to Submit:**

- **EMAIL:** pdf to CSapply@cs.umass.edu (until 11:59 PM deadline)

- **PAPER FORM:** to CS Main Office (M-F 8:30-5:00 PM)

Email will be sent within 1 week to confirm receipt of application. Contact csapply@cs.umass.edu if confirmation is not received.

# Application Decisions

- **CONTRACT**: Transcripts are reviewed and specific semester goals for admission are set. Most contracts are for one semester, but some may extend over two terms.  A student given a contract is considered an "Applicant On Contract" (AOC).

- **DENIED**: Transcript reflects a pattern that gives negative evidence for success as a CS Major or other criteria is not met:
    - 5th full-time semester or greater
    - Number of allowable applications exceeded
    - Non consecutive semester applications
    - Non passing grades in predictor courses

# Contract Standards

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3. No grade below C
4. At least 12 total term credits earned that are letter graded.
5. No P/F option on contract predictor courses, CS major requirements, or courses counting toward the 12
6. Overall GPA of at least 3.00

# Notifications

Applicants are notified of all decisions via @umass email.

After a contract term and after grades are posted you will be notified:

- **You are accepted into the CS major.** At that point you must respond to your acceptance email for a CS major change to be completed. Failure to do so will forfeit your opportunity for a major change.

- **You did not make your contract.** At that point you should review the applicant requirements and time frame to determine if you are still eligible to submit another application.
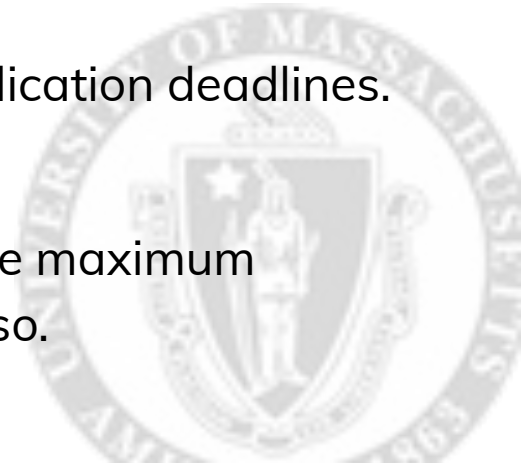
# Re-Application

Students who are not admitted because of failure to meet the contract are welcome to re-apply, according to the following eligibility rules:

- Not in or beyond 5th full-time semester.

- Re-application limit not exceeded. The Undergraduate Program Committee has a limit of 2 applications to the CS Major.

- Consecutive applications are required.  Do not skip application deadlines.

The UPD reserves the right to deny an application before the maximum number of re-applications if there is sufficient reason to do so.
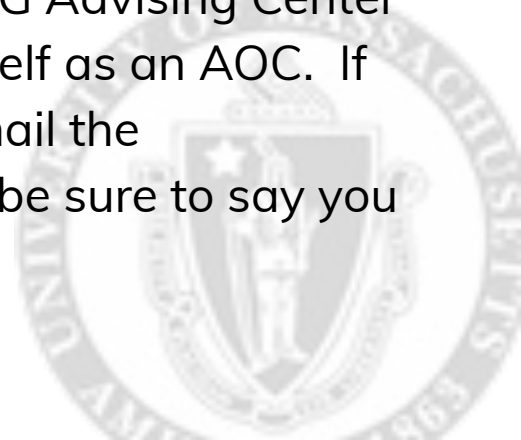
# Advising

**AOCs are not considered CS Majors** until the contract is met and paperwork is processed to change your major to CS.

**Continue to follow the advising protocol** of your current primary major (we will not remove your registration holds).

**For CS Advising help and general questions**, visit the CS UG Advising Center in LGRC A243.  Bring your contract email and identify yourself as an AOC.  If you have additional questions there were not answered, email the Undergraduate Program Director ([upd@cs.umass.edu](mailto:upd@cs.umass.edu)) and be sure to say you are an AOC.

# Registration/Overrides

Overrides are needed to enroll in CS courses that are restricted to majors.

If you meet prerequisites, make sure that you request overrides through the online form for the upcoming semester (when link is available).

https://www.cs.umass.edu/overrides

Register for courses in light of your contract requirements.

**Do not overload a contract term.**

# Tips, Advice, and Strategies



**CS Application != CS Major**

    It gives you priority to contract courses only

    Be prompt with registration


**More Courses != BETTER**

    Focus on contract courses

    Do not take extra courses (minimum 12 letter-graded credits for contract)

    Even if you are behind in CS!


**Do NOT go too far into CS before applying**

    This is risky if you do not meet your contract!

    We consider your entire cumulative transcript

# Tips, Advice, and Strategies



**If your performance is well below your contract requirements**

You will NOT be given seats in CS courses the following semester.

**A grade below a C in <u>any</u> course in a contract semester**

You will NOT be given seats in CS courses the following semester.

# Tips, Advice, and Strategies

**If you are thinking about withdrawing from a predictor course or another course that would drop you below the minimum 12 credits, you must first contact UPD.**

**Contact UPD immediately before you make any changes - this may void your contract.**

**upd@cs.umass.edu**

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# Good Luck!

https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/major-change-cs