Applying to Computer Science Degree Programs
March 1, 2019 Deadline

These slides available at:
https://goo.gl/1mWgKt

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
CICS Exploratory Track Advisor

Bill Verts
Peer Advising (ACE) Manager
https://www.cics.umass.edu/ugrad-education/ace-cs-ug-advising-center

Undergraduate Programs

Computer Science Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor of Science in CS

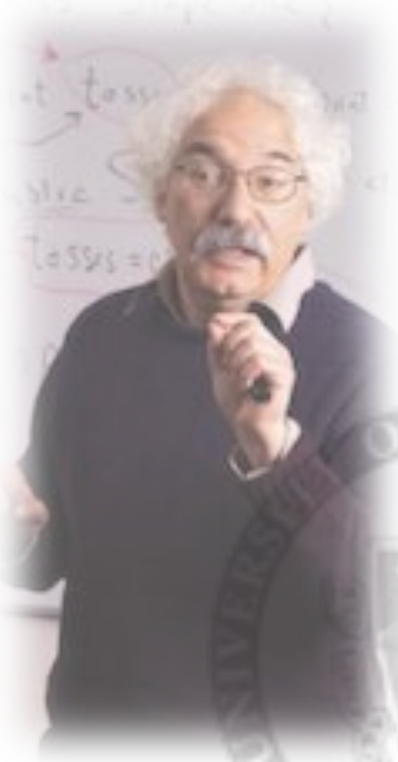
Bachelor of Arts in CS

Minor in Computer Science

Informatics Major

Started in BDIC (2014) - soon to be approved!

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

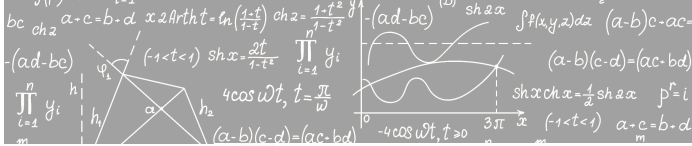
Most Technical Entry-Level Positions in Industry

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 (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.

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- MATH 131 Calculus I
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Successful Application for Major Change to CS

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

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- COMPSCI 187 Programming with Data Structures
- MATH 131 Calculus I
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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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- **Readmitted** students return to UMass with the same major as when they left and may apply prior to 5th full-time semester only.

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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

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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 are denied.** 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 (ACE). Bring your contract email and identify yourself as an AOC. If after ACE, you have additional questions, email the Undergraduate Program Director (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 overload with extra courses
- 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 the following semester.

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Good Luck!

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