Applying to Computer Science Degree Programs
Spring 2016

Rod Grupen – Undergraduate Program Director
Outline for Today – Application to the CS Majors

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

Criteria
Deadlines
Application
Review
Decisions

Notification
Advising
Registration/Overrides
Re-Application
FAQ
People You Should Know

Darlene Fahey
Undergraduate Program Manager
People You Should Know

Greg Boisseau
CICS Exploratory Track Advisor
People You Should Know

Bill Verts

Peer Advising (ACE) Manager

ACE Advising Center – USpace (CS bldg, Room 144)

• Peer advisors: the most successful junior/senior generation of students
• Advise and strategize with first-year students, applicants on contract, and interested students, can help with tutoring on entry-level classes
CS Undergraduate Programs

- **Undergraduate Program**
  - Bachelor of Science in CS
  - Bachelor of Arts in CS
  - Minor in Computer Science

- **Informatics Major**
  - Started in BDIC Spring 2014
    Michelle Trim
By the Numbers

- **883 Majors** (13% women)
  - ~838 BS
  - ~45 BA

- **Fall Cycle Applicants:**
  - 50 Applicants on contract
  - ~50% get admitted per cycle

- **88 Minors** (26% women)

- >150 UGs graduate each year
  - and growing fast!

- **205 new freshman, 75 ETs, 44 transfers**

- 50 Faculty
BS in Computer Science

- **Goals** –
  - Graduate Study in CS
  - Most Technical Entry-Level Jobs in Industry

- **Comprehensive Training in Computer Science**

- **Course Requirements**
  - 14 Computer Science
  - 4 Math
  - 2 Majors-Level Lab Science
Other Requirements

• **Math**
  • 2 semesters of engineering-level calculus
  • Linear algebra
  • Multivariate calculus OR calculus-based statistics

• **Science**
  • 2 majors-level science lab courses
  • chemistry, physics, geosciences
BA in Computer Science

• **Goals** – to apply sophisticated computing techniques to a second discipline

• **Course Requirements (fewer CS courses)**
  • 10 Computer Science
  • 3 Math
  • Foreign Language
  • 4-Course Concentration
Other Requirements

• **Writing**
  • Junior-year writing (CMPSCI 305)

• **Foreign Language**
  • BA-CMPSCI only

• **General Education**
  • UMass requirements
  • Integrative Experience
    (NatSci 494 | | CS 320 | | CS 326)
Minor in Computer Science

- **Goals** - add CS background to your Primary Discipline
- **Course Requirements (5)**
  - 2 Entry Level Computer Science
  - At Least 2 200-Level Courses
  - 1 200-Level or Above
Informatics Program

- BDIC - Bachelors Degree with Individual Concentration

- Michelle Trim – Informatics Coordinator
Applying to the Computer Science Major

- **Two paths into the major**
  - Admissions Office
  - *by application*

About 25% of CS majors join us through the application process

[https://www.cics.umass.edu/admissions/ugrad-admission](https://www.cics.umass.edu/admissions/ugrad-admission)
# CS Major Application

**Application Deadlines:**
- October 1st for Spring registration (Nov)
- March 1st for Fall registration (Apr)
- June 1st for Fall add/drop (Sep) – Returning Students only

**Office Use Only:**
- Date Rec’d: ________

Choose only ONE of the following:
- Applying to Change Major to:
  - BS-CMPSCI
  - BA-CMPSCI
- Applying to Add Major:
  - SM-CMPSCI
  - SM-CMPSCBA

Name: ____________________  SPIRE ID: ____________________
Email: ____________________@umass.edu  Overall GPA: ______ after ___ semesters
SPIRE Expected Grad Date (EGD): Class of ________  □ Feb  □ May  □ Sep
Current Major(s):  □ HN-COMMWLT

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**COMPLETED Courses – Predictor (include all completed repeats)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept Course #</th>
<th>AP/Transfer or Approved Equivalent UMass Course</th>
<th>Sem/Year(s)</th>
<th>Grade(s)</th>
<th>UPD Notes</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 131</td>
<td>AP</td>
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<tr>
<td>MATH 132</td>
<td>AP</td>
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**COMPLETED Courses – Upper Level (include all completed repeats)**

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<th>Dept Course #</th>
<th>Transfer or Approved Equivalent UMass Course</th>
<th>Sem/Year(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>STATS 515</td>
<td>Transfer</td>
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</table>

**ALL Courses for 20**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept Course # (ECON 100)</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>UPD Review Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Admission to the major is based on your complete transcript. At most, three applicant contracts may be extended before applications are denied.
A Contract

RESPONSE TO APPLICATION (to be completed by UPD or designee):

☐ You are admitted.

☐ You are considered an ‘Applicant On Contract’ (AOC) and we will admit you to the CS Major after you have met the following minimum performance as stated:

☐ Grade of ______ or better in___________________________ in __________________

☐ Grade of ______ or better in___________________________ in __________________

☐ No grade below ________  ☐ Total Term Credits ______________  ☐ Overall GPA of ________

☐ Additional Comments:

☐ At least 12 total term credits earned must be letter graded (mandatory P/F courses are not letter graded)
☐ No P/F option on contract predictor courses, CS major requirements, or courses counting toward the 12.
☐ Schedule changes may void this contract and affect Applicant status. Contact upd@cs.umass.edu immediately.
☐ If contract extends beyond one term, all criteria applies to each contract term, where applicable.

☐ Your application is denied.

☐ Additional Comments:

Undergraduate Program Director (UPD), School of Computer Science (or Designee)  Date  

Office Use Only:

uaoc: __________ AM______
Application Process

• **When should you apply?**
  • enrolled in at least CS 187 and MATH 131
  • before you become a senior by total credit hours

• **Applications are accepted:**
  October 1    March 1    June 1
Application Process

• Up to 3 \textit{consecutive} applications are permitted

\begin{quote}
You should take all actions necessary to make your best case in your first attempt at the 121, 187, 131, 132 predictor courses.
\end{quote}

• If you are on #2 or #3, \textbf{have a plan B}!
Making Your Case

• *demonstrate proficiency in predictor course*
  • >= B+ in MATH 131/132
  • >= B+ in CMPSCI 121/187
  • >= B+ in higher-level CS courses

• a “good” overall contract semester
  • >= C in all other courses
  • *onsite performance* - total of at least 12 credits
  • no P/F on predictors (except MPF Freshman seminar), major requirements, or courses counted in the 12 contract credits
  • Overall GPA greater than 3.0

Absolutely no academic honesty violations!

*Immediate Rejection*
Applicant Contracts

• **Plan to Make Your Case**
  • *A contract may take more than one semester!*
  • *apply, register, and request overrides 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, & Strategy

• **CS Applicant != CS Major**
  - *It gives you prioritized access to contract courses only*
  - *Be prompt with registration!*

• **More CS courses != BETTER**
  - *Focus on CS courses on your contract!*
  - *Even if you are behind in CS!*

• **Do NOT go to far into CS as applicant**
  - *This is risky if you do not meet contract(s)!*
  - *We consider your entire cumulative transcript.*
That's It!

Good Luck!

Questions?