Undergraduate Computer Science Program

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https://www.csd.cs.cmu.edu/academics/undergraduate/overview

The B.S. program in Computer Science combines a solid core of Computer Science courses with the ability to gain additional depth through a required minor in a second subject or a concentration in a computing area. In addition, the curriculum provides breadth through numerous choices for science, engineering, humanities and fine arts courses. As computing is a discipline with strong links to many fields, this provides students with unparalleled flexibility to pursue allied (or non-allied) interests.

Students apply to, and are directly admitted into, the School of Computer Science. Admitted students may choose to pursue an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and, upon successful completion, are awarded a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. Suitably prepared students from other Carnegie Mellon colleges are eligible to apply for internal transfer to the School of Computer Science and will be considered for transfer if grades in core CS requirements are sufficiently high and space is available.

Students in the B.S. program in Computer Science are expected to acquire the following skills upon graduation:

- Identify, use, design, develop and analyze appropriate abstractions and algorithms to solve problems while being able to prove the algorithm's performance and correctness across a variety of metrics (e.g., time, space, parallel vs. sequential implementation, computability).
- Implement solutions to problems in domains such as artificial intelligence, graphics and sound, software engineering, and human-computer interaction, by applying the fundamentals of those areas to create solutions to current problems while being exposed to research developments that will enable them to adapt as the technology changes.
- Reason about and implement programs in various programming languages and paradigms
- Describe, specify, and develop large-scale, open-ended software systems subject to constraints such as performance and/or resource issues
- Communicate technical material effectively to technical and non-technical audiences
- Work both individually and in teams
- Recognize the social impact of computing and the attendant responsibility to consider the legal, moral and ethical implications of computing technologies.

Due to the tremendous number of ongoing research projects within the School, many students obtain part-time or summer jobs, or receive independent study credit, working on research while pursuing their undergraduate degree. Students seeking a research/graduate school career may pursue an intensive course of research, equivalent to four classroom courses, culminating in the preparation of a senior research thesis.

SCS also offers a B.S. degree in Artificial Intelligence, a B.S. degree in Computational Biology and a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science and the Arts (jointly with the College of Fine Arts). More detail about the Artificial Intelligence major, the Computational Biology major and the Computer Science and the Arts program is available in separate sections of the Undergraduate Catalog. SCS offers additional majors in Computer Science (for non-CS majors), Human-Computer Interaction, and Robotics, and minors in Computational Biology, Computer Science (for non-CS majors), Human-Computer Interaction, Language Technologies, Machine Learning, Neural Computation, Robotics, and Software Engineering. Information about additional majors and minors in SCS besides those in Computer Science are listed in a separate section in the Undergraduate Catalog.

Curriculum - B.S. in Computer Science

The following requirements are for students entering Fall 2018.

Computer Science

Computer Science Core (all of the following):		Units
07-128	Freshman Immigration Course	1
15-122	Principles of Imperative Computation (students with no prior programming experience take 15-112 before 15-122)	10
15-150	Principles of Functional Programming	10

15-210	Parallel and Sequential Data Structures and Algorithms	12
15-213	Introduction to Computer Systems	12
15-251	Great Ideas in Theoretical Computer Science	12
15-451	Algorithm Design and Analysis	12

One Logics/Languages elective (min. 9 units):		
15-312	Foundations of Programming Languages	12
15-316	Software Foundations of Security and Privacy	9
15-317	Constructive Logic	9
15-414	Bug Catching: Automated Program Verification	9
15-424	Logical Foundations of Cyber-Physical Systems	12
80-413	Category Theory	9

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

One Software Systems elective (min. 12 units):		
15-410	Operating System Design and Implementation	15
15-411	Compiler Design	15
15-418	Parallel Computer Architecture and Programming	12
15-440	Distributed Systems	12
15-441	Computer Networks	12
15-445	Database Systems	12

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

One Artificial Intelligence elective (min. 9 units):		
10-401	Introduction to Machine Learning (Undergrad)	12
11-411	Natural Language Processing	12
15-381	Artificial Intelligence: Representation and Problem Solving	9
15-386	Neural Computation	9
16-384	Robot Kinematics and Dynamics	12
16-385	Computer Vision	9

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

One Domains elective (min. 9 units):		
02-251	Great Ideas in Computational Biology	12
05-391	Designing Human Centered Software	12
15-322	Introduction to Computer Music	9
15-330	Introduction to Computer Security	12
15-455	Undergraduate Complexity Theory	9
15-462	Computer Graphics	12
17-313	Foundations of Software Engineering	12

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

Two Computer Science electives:	Units
These electives can be from any SCS department; 200-level and above, at least 9 units each (see exceptions below): Computer Science [15-], Computational Biology [02-], Human Computer Interaction [05-], Machine Learning [10-], Language Technologies [11-], Robotics [16-], and Software Engineering [17-]. (NOTE: The following undergraduate courses do NOT count as Computer Science electives: 02-201, 02-223, 02-250, 02-261, 15-351, 16-223, 17-200, 17-333, 17-562. Some IDEATE courses and SCS graduate courses might not be allowed. Consult with a CS undergraduate advisor before registration to determine eligibility for this requirement.)	18

Mathematics

15-151	Mathematical Foundations for Computer Science (if not offered, substitute 21-127)	10
21-120	Differential and Integral Calculus	10
21-122	Integration and Approximation	10
Plus one of the following:		
21-241	Matrices and Linear Transformations	10
21-242	Matrix Theory	10
Plus one of the following:		
15-259	Probability and Computing	12
21-325	Probability	9
36-218	Probability Theory for Computer Scientists	9

36-225-36-226 Introduction to Probability Theory - Introduction to Statistical Inference   18
(must take both courses in this sequence to satisfy requirement)

Technical Communication

One Technical Communications course:		Units
15-300	Research and Innovation in Computer Science	9
17-200	Ethics and Policy Issues in Computing	9
76-270	Writing for the Professions	9

Science and Engineering

All candidates for the bachelor's degree in Computer Science must complete a minimum of 36 units offered by the Mellon College of Science and/or the College of Engineering (CIT). These courses offer students an opportunity to explore scientific and engineering domains that can influence their effectiveness as computer scientists upon graduation.

Requirements for this component of the degree are listed under the SCS main page under General Education Requirements (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/schoolofcomputerscience/#genedtext).

Humanities and Arts

All candidates for the bachelor's degree in Computer Science must complete a minimum of 63 units offered by the College of Humanities & Social Sciences and/or the College of Fine Arts. These courses offer students breadth in their education and perspectives and provide students with a better appreciation of social, artistic, cultural, political and economic issues that can influence their effectiveness as computer scientists upon graduation.

Requirements for this component of the degree are listed under the SCS main page under General Education Requirements (http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/schoolofcomputerscience/#genedtext).

Required Minor/Concentration

Students entering in 2018 and completing the bachelor's degree in Computer Science must complete either a minor outside of SCS or a concentration within SCS. A minor is a sequence of (typically 5-6) courses within a particular department to give students a core of a specific discipline but not an entire major of study. An SCS concentration is a sequence of (typically 4-5) courses within an SCS department to give students further depth in specific areas of research important to SCS. SCS concentrations are available only to SCS students and assume that these students have a significant core knowledge in Computer Science including 15-210, 15-213 and 15-251. Additional SCS Concentrations are being approved during the 2018-2019 academic year. Watch for announcements from your academic advisor or the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education when SCS concentrations are approved.

Completion of an additional major (or dual degree) also satisfies this requirement.

Double Counting

In general, courses taken in satisfaction of the minor or additional major may also count toward any general education category in the CS major (i.e. courses outside of the Computer Science and Mathematics requirements). Double counting toward Computer Science and Mathematics courses in the CS major is strictly limited and depends on the chosen minor (or additional major). In general, students may double count at most 5 of the 12 core Computer Science requirements toward all other declared additional majors and minors. Additional majors and minors have their own double counting rules as well. Consult with a CS undergraduate advisor and an advisor from the department of the minor (or additional major) for specific restrictions on double counting.

Computing @ Carnegie Mellon (1 course)

The following course is required of all students to familiarize them with the campus computing environment:

99-101	Computing @ Carnegie Mellon	3

Free Electives

A free elective is any Carnegie Mellon course. However, a maximum of nine (9) units of Physical Education and/or Military Science (ROTC) and/or Student-Led (StuCo) courses may be used toward fulfilling graduation requirements.

Summary of Degree Requirements:

Area	Courses	Units
Computer Science (core courses, constrained electives, and SCS electives)	12	**125**
Mathematics	5	**49**
Technical Communication	1	**9**
Science/Engineering	4	**36**
Humanities/Arts	7	**63**
Minor Requirement/Free electives	8	**74**
Computing @ Carnegie Mellon	1	**3**
First Year Seminar	1	**1**
		360

Sample Course Sequence

The sample given below is for a student who already has credit for introductory programming but no credit for calculus. Students with credit for calculus may start with a more advanced math class (e.g. 21-241) in their first year. Students with no credit for introductory programming will take 15-112 in their first semester and shift some CS courses to later semesters after consulting with their academic advisor; these students should still be able to complete their degree in four years given the light load of their senior year. It is recommended that students keep their academic load lighter for their Senior Fall semester to account for offsite job interviews or for their Senior Spring semester to account for visits to graduate schools.

Freshman Year:

Fall		Units
07-128	Freshman Immigration Course	1
15-122	Principles of Imperative Computation	10
15-131	Great Practical Ideas for Computer Scientists (optional, not required for CS major)	2
15-151	Mathematical Foundations for Computer Science (if not offered, substitute 21-127)	10
21-120	Differential and Integral Calculus	10
76-101	Interpretation and Argument	9
99-10x	Computing @ Carnegie Mellon	3
		45

Spring		Units
15-150	Principles of Functional Programming	10
15-251	Great Ideas in Theoretical Computer Science	12
21-122	Integration and Approximation	10
xx-xxx	Science/Engineering Course	9
xx-xxx	Humanities and Arts Elective	9
		50

Sophomore Year:

Fall		Units
15-213	Introduction to Computer Systems	12
21-241	Matrices and Linear Transformations	10
xx-xxx	Science/Engineering Course	9
xx-xxx	Humanities and Arts Elective	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
		49

Spring		Units
15-210	Parallel and Sequential Data Structures and Algorithms	12
xx-xxx	Computer Science: Domains Elective	9
xx-xxx	Science/Engineering Course	9
xx-xxx	Humanities and Arts Elective	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
		48

Junior Year:

Fall		Units
15-451	Algorithm Design and Analysis	12
xx-xxx	Computer Science: Logic/Languages Elective	9
xx-xxx	Technical Communications Course	9
xx-xxx	Probability Course	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
		48

Spring		Units
15-xxx	Computer Science: Systems Elective	12
xx-xxx	Computer Science: Artificial Intelligence Elective	9
xx-xxx	Humanities and Arts Elective	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
xx-xxx	Science/Engineering Course	9
		48

Senior Year:

Fall		Units
xx-xxx	School of Computer Science Elective	9
xx-xxx	Humanities and Arts Elective	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
		36

Spring		Units
xx-xxx	School of Computer Science Elective	9
xx-xxx	Humanities and Arts Elective	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
xx-xxx	Minor Requirement / Free Elective	9
		36

Minimum number of units required for the degree: **360**

The flexibility in the curriculum allows many different schedules, of which the above is only one possibility. Some elective courses are offered only once per year (Fall or Spring). Constrained CS electives (logic/languages, software systems, artificial intelligence and domains) may be taken in any order and in any semester if prerequisites are met and seats are available. Constrained electives are shown in the specific semesters in the schedule above as an example only. Students should consult with their academic advisor to determine the best elective options depending on course availability, their academic interests and their career goals.

Undergraduate Research Thesis

Students considering going on to graduate school in Computer Science should take a wide variety of Computer Science and Mathematics courses, as well as consider getting involved in independent research as early as possible. This would be no later than the junior year and can begin even earlier. Students interested in graduate school are strongly encouraged to participate in the Undergraduate Research Thesis program. Additionally, graduate CS courses can be taken with permission of the instructor and in consultation with an academic advisor.

The goal of the Undergraduate Research Thesis Program is to introduce students to the breadth of tasks involved in independent research, including library work, problem formulation, experimentation, analysis, writing and speaking. In particular, students write a survey paper summarizing prior results in their desired area of research, present a public poster session in December of their senior year describing their current progress, present their final results in an oral summary in the year-end university-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium (Meeting of the Minds) and submit a written thesis at the end of their senior year. Students work closely with faculty advisors to plan and carry out their research. The SCS Honors Undergraduate Research Thesis (15-599) typically starts in the fall semester of the senior year, and spans the entire senior year. Students receive a total of 36 units of academic credit for the thesis work, 18 units per semester. Up to 18 units can be counted toward CS elective requirements (9 per semester for 2 semesters maximum). Students should prepare their research prospectus (i.e. proposal of work) during the spring semester of their junior year, and students in this program are advised to plan their schedules carefully to ensure there is ample time to perform the required research for the thesis during the senior year.

Students interested in research are urged to consult with their CS undergraduate advisor and Assistant Dean no later than the end of their sophomore year in order to plan their workload effectively. Students may also consider using Research and Innovation in Computer Science (15-300, 9 units) as their technical communications requirement in their junior year since this course will introduce students to various research projects going on in the School of Computer Science that may lead to a senior thesis. This course leads to a subsequent Research Practicum in Computer Science (15-400, 12 units) that allows students to complete a small-scale research study or experiment and present a research poster. Students who use 15-400 to start their senior thesis can use these units toward the required 36 units.

Dual Degree in Computer Science

Students wishing to pursue a Dual Degree in Computer Science are required to apply in the same way as students wishing to transfer into the Computer Science major. Details are given in the SCS Policies section. Besides the student's primary degree requirements, a student accepted for Dual Degree in CS is required to complete at least 450 units in total and meet all requirements for the CS major including all general education requirements (humanities/arts and science/engineering). Dual degree students do not need to complete 15-128, and these students will replace 15-151 with either 21-127 or 21-128. Since the CS major requires at least a minor or concentration in another area, the student's primary major will substitute for this requirement. Note that the primary major must be completed prior to or at the same time as the dual degree in CS to satisfy the minor requirement; a dual degree in CS cannot be certified if the primary degree is not completed. Students should consult with the Assistant Dean in the CS Undergraduate Office and/or their CS academic advisor to review all requirements, once approved.

Double-Counting Restriction

Students pursuing a Dual Degree in Computer Science must complete all requirements for the CS primary major (except 15-128 which is not required and 15-151 which will be replaced with 21-127 or 21-128). In addition, at most 5 of the 12 computer science requirements can double count with all other declared majors and minors. Students, especially from interdisciplinary majors or with multiple majors or minors, are urged to consult with the Assistant Dean or Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the CS Undergraduate Office to determine double-counting restrictions specific to their own situations.

Computer Science Additional Major

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING FALL 2018

Students interested in pursuing an additional major in Computer Science should first consult with an advisor in the CS Undergraduate Office. Students are expected to complete the requirements for the CS minor first before continuing on to the additional major. Completion of the CS additional major requires 12 computer science courses (not including 15-110 and 15-112 if needed), 5 mathematics courses, and 1 technical communication course. Students are expected to complete all courses for the additional major with an average QPA of 3.0 or higher.

Declaration for the additional major is allowed only after all math requirements are completed or in progress, and at least 9 of the 12 CS requirements (core and electives) are completed or in progress. Due to high demand, seats in upper-level CS courses are not guaranteed for additional majors so students should plan to be flexible in selecting constrained and general electives. Acceptance to complete a Computer Science additional major is not guaranteed and depends on student performance and seat availability.

The following courses are required for the Additional Major in Computer Science:

Computer Science requirements:

Core courses (all are required):		Units
15-122	Principles of Imperative Computation	10
15-150	Principles of Functional Programming	10
15-210	Parallel and Sequential Data Structures and Algorithms	12
15-213	Introduction to Computer Systems	12
15-251	Great Ideas in Theoretical Computer Science	12
15-451	Algorithm Design and Analysis	12

One Logic & Languages elective:		Units
15-312	Foundations of Programming Languages	12
15-316	Software Foundations of Security and Privacy	9
15-317	Constructive Logic	9

15-414	Bug Catching: Automated Program Verification	9
15-424	Logical Foundations of Cyber-Physical Systems	12
80-413	Category Theory	9

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

One Systems elective:		Units
15-410	Operating System Design and Implementation	15
15-411	Compiler Design	15
15-418	Parallel Computer Architecture and Programming	12
15-440	Distributed Systems	12
15-441	Computer Networks	12
15-445	Database Systems	12

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

One Artificial Intelligence elective:		Units
10-401	Introduction to Machine Learning (Undergrad)	12
11-411	Natural Language Processing	12
15-381	Artificial Intelligence: Representation and Problem Solving	9
15-386	Neural Computation	9
16-384	Robot Kinematics and Dynamics	12
16-385	Computer Vision	9

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

One Domains elective (min. 9 units):		Units
02-251	Great Ideas in Computational Biology	12
05-391	Designing Human Centered Software	12
15-322	Introduction to Computer Music	9
15-330	Introduction to Computer Security	12
15-455	Undergraduate Complexity Theory	9
15-462	Computer Graphics	12
17-313	Foundations of Software Engineering	12

others as designated by the CS Undergraduate Program

The CS Undergraduate Office (GHC 4115) will announce if any other electives are approved for the four constrained elective categories above.

Math requirements:

		Units

All of the following three courses:

21-120	Differential and Integral Calculus	10
21-122	Integration and Approximation	10
21-127	Concepts of Mathematics	10
or 21-128	Mathematical Concepts and Proofs	

Plus one of the following:

21-241	Matrices and Linear Transformations	10
21-242	Matrix Theory	10

Plus one of the following:

15-359	Probability and Computing	12
21-325	Probability	9
36-218	Probability Theory for Computer Scientists	9
36-225-36-226	Introduction to Probability Theory - Introduction to Statistical Inference (both courses in sequence must be completed for requirement)	18

Technical Communication requirement:

One Technical Communications course:		Units
15-300	Research and Innovation in Computer Science (seating limited, by permission of instructor only)	9
17-200	Ethics and Policy Issues in Computing	9
76-270	Writing for the Professions	9

Double-Counting Restriction

Students pursuing an Additional Major in Computer Science must complete all requirements listed above. In addition, at most 5 of the 12 computer science requirements can be double counted toward all other declared majors and minors. Students, especially from interdisciplinary majors or with multiple majors or minors, are urged to consult with the Assistant Dean or Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the CS Undergraduate Office to determine double-counting restrictions specific to their own situations.

Computer Science Minor

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING CMU IN FALL 2018

Students interested in pursuing a minor in Computer Science should first consult with an advisor in the CS Undergraduate Office after completion of the prerequisites, 15-122, 15-150 and with at least one of the 200-level required courses in progress. Students are expected to complete all courses for the minor with an average QPA of 2.0 or higher, and no courses used for the minor should have a grade of D.

The following courses are required for the Minor in Computer Science:

Prerequisites:		Units
15-112	Fundamentals of Programming and Computer Science (some students may need to take 15-110 prior to 15-112 for additional preparation)	12
21-127	Concepts of Mathematics	10-12
or 21-128	Mathematical Concepts and Proofs	

Computer Science core courses:		
15-122	Principles of Imperative Computation	10
15-150	Principles of Functional Programming	10
15-210	Parallel and Sequential Data Structures and Algorithms	12

One of the following Computer Science core courses:		
15-213	Introduction to Computer Systems	12
15-251	Great Ideas in Theoretical Computer Science	12

Two additional Computer Science electives, of at least 9 units each:	
CS elective courses must be 15-213 or higher, at least 9-units each. 15-221 and 15-351 cannot be used. One course can be from any other SCS department besides the Computer Science Department, with prior approval. Note: Students who take 15-213/18-213 or 15-251 as part of another degree are required to replace this requirement in the CS minor with another CS elective (15-xxx) as defined above, for a total of 3 additional CS electives.	18

Double-Counting Restriction

Students may double-count a maximum of 2 courses for the CS minor (not including the prerequisites) toward all other majors and minors. Students, especially from computing-related majors, interdisciplinary majors or with multiple majors or minors, are urged to consult with the Assistant Dean or Undergraduate Program Coordinator in the CS Undergraduate Office to review double-counting restrictions specific to their own situations.