# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## What can I do with this major?

The field of computer science is continually changing. The areas listed below do not exhaust possible career options. See also *What Can I Do With This Major in Management Information Systems.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAMMING</strong></td>
<td>Computer systems design firms</td>
<td>Seek programming experience through volunteer positions, internships and co-ops.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating Systems</td>
<td>Software developers</td>
<td>Develop attention to detail, logical thinking and communication skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Systems</td>
<td>Data processing/Management firms</td>
<td>Exhibit patience and creativity for designing programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific</td>
<td>Contract and temporary employers</td>
<td>Learn to work effectively independently on teams and with end-users while maintaining deadlines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Most areas of business, government and non-governmental organizations including:</td>
<td>Supplement computer degree with courses in business, science or engineering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>Financial institutions, insurance companies, consulting firms, manufacturers, computer companies, telecommunications companies, retailers, healthcare organizations, hotels and restaurants, entertainment companies, environmental management firms, transportation companies, education institutions, research institutions, city, state and federal government</td>
<td>Maintain current knowledge of programming languages; vendor and professional certifications may increase job prospects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
<td>Consider earning the Certified Computing Professional designation by completing a series of exams and experiential requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research and Development</td>
<td></td>
<td>Earn a master’s degree for upper level positions.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Planning/Analysis | Most areas of business, government and non-governmental organizations including: |
| Design | Financial institutions, insurance companies, consulting firms, manufacturers, computer companies, telecommunications companies, retailers, healthcare organizations, hotels and restaurants, entertainment companies, environmental management firms, transportation companies, education institutions, research institutions, city, state and federal government |
| Building/Coding | Develop excellent interpersonal skills for effective communication with technical and non-technical colleagues and clients. |
| Integration/Testing | Seek knowledge of industries, business areas or government agencies of interest. Complete a minor to gain specialized knowledge related to a field of interest. |
| Operations/Maintenance | Strengthen logical thinking and problem solving skills. |
| Project Management | Maintain current knowledge of computer languages and technology. |
|                      | Gain programming experience and specialize for increased opportunities. |
### STRATEGIES

**SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT continued**

Obtain business experience through internships or part-time employment. Supplement program with courses such as accounting, management, human resources, consulting to increase understanding of business theory. Earn a graduate degree in technology or business for advanced opportunities in analysis, project management and executive operations.

**NETWORK TECHNOLOGY**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Intranet</th>
<th>Development</th>
<th>Installation</th>
<th>Testing</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Security</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Hardware and Software Design</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seek work experience in university computer labs or through related part-time jobs, internships or volunteer opportunities. Develop effective analytical and problem solving skills. Expect to spend a significant amount of time responding to inquiries from colleagues, customers and employees. Acquire strong oral and written communication skills and an interest in helping others. Gain knowledge in a variety of computer areas including programming, software and hardware. Stay abreast of the latest network technologies. Consider earning applicable certifications such as Cisco or Microsoft for some positions.</td>
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Most areas of business, government and non-governmental organizations including:
- Financial institutions, insurance companies,
- consulting firms, manufacturers, computer companies, telecommunications companies,
- retailers, healthcare organizations, hotels and restaurants, entertainment companies, environmental management firms, transportation companies, education institutions, research institutions, city, state and federal government

**DATABASE ADMINISTRATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Development</th>
<th>Installation</th>
<th>Testing</th>
<th>Maintenance/Support</th>
<th>Archiving/Security</th>
<th>Upgrading</th>
<th>Systems Integration</th>
<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop logical thinking skills, attention to detail and the ability to concentrate for long periods of time. Obtain technical experience through paid or volunteer positions. Seek general knowledge of computer languages and database management software; consider specializing in one for increased marketability. Acquire strong communication skills to prepare for work with teams of programmers and with staff who may have limited computer training.</td>
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### AREAS

**INTERNET**
- Programming
- Software Design
- Systems Development (see Page 2)
- Web Design/Maintenance

**EDUCATION**
- Teaching
- Instructional Technology

### STRATEGIES

**INTERNET EMPLOYERS**
- Internet exchange points (IXPs)
- Internet service providers
- Software vendors
- Internet-related companies including: browsers, search engines, web design services
- business, government and nongovernmental organizations
- Consulting firms
- Self-employed

**INTERNET STRATEGIES**
- Supplement major with courses in web design, graphic design, internet development or network architecture.
- Pursue business classes or a business minor for consulting and systems development positions.
- Gain experience as a webmaster through part-time jobs, internships or volunteering to design web pages for student organizations.
- Develop excellent communication skills and prepare to work on teams which may include content authors, graphic artists, programmers, etc.
- Maintain current knowledge of web-based programming languages.

**EDUCATION EMPLOYERS**
- Colleges and universities
- Proprietary (for profit) schools
- Public and private schools, K-12
- Colleges and universities
- Corporations

**EDUCATION STRATEGIES**
- Gain experience working with students through tutoring, part-time employment, internships in computer labs and/or other technical positions.
- Develop excellent interpersonal and public speaking skills.
- Inquire about certification process which is required for K-12 teaching and varies by state.
- Pursue a master’s for teaching at most community colleges or two-year institutions.
- Seek a doctoral degree related to information or computer sciences for teaching opportunities at colleges and universities. Develop a research specialty for university teaching.
- Earn a graduate degree in information technology or a related field for instructional technology.
#### AREAS

**TECHNICAL SUPPORT**
- Customer/Product Support
- Sales
- Marketing
- Technical Writing

**EMPLOYERS**
- Software/hardware manufacturers
- System developers
- Technical service providers
- Retail stores
- Education institutions

**STRATEGIES**
- Develop excellent communication skills and an interest in helping customers solve problems.
- Exhibit patience and a commitment to customer satisfaction.
- Secure experience working in university computer labs and at help desks.
- Obtain general sales or customer service experience.
- Acquire extensive knowledge of merchandise for retail sales positions.
- Supplement curriculum with technical writing courses to develop skills.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION
- Consider earning a minor in math or pursuing it as a second major, as a computer science major is heavily math-based.
- Develop strong interpersonal, communication and teamwork skills. Patience and perseverance are essential for computer science professionals.
- Complete informational interviews with current computer science professionals to help establish career goals.
- Obtain an internship, co-op or part-time job in a relevant area to increase employability. Related experience is essential to employers hiring computer science majors.
- Obtain vendor-specific or networking certifications to gain a competitive edge for some positions.
- Expect to work extended and/or irregular hours at times and to be "on call."
- Prepare to learn new information on a regular basis through online discussions, classes, conferences, periodicals, and update your skills accordingly.
- Note that an interest in computers may not translate into an interest in computer science, as the major is heavily programming and math-based.
- To enter the gaming industry, investigate training programs specific to game design and seek as much exposure to designing as possible. Pursue entry-level opportunities, such as tester, to gain experience.