



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Computer Science

Department of Computer Science, College of Business & Technology

## Program of Study

Like all Western programs, studies in Computer Science are based on the broad educational foundation built during your freshman and sophomore years. General Education courses account for approximately one-third of the credit hours required for the degree and include courses in writing, speaking, the humanities, the social sciences, the natural sciences, mathematics, and health sciences.

You will find the Computer Science program rewarding and challenging. The goals are to give you the basic and fundamental knowledge of your field, allow you to continue updating your knowledge as the field progresses, and give you the confidence to attack problems and the competence to solve them.

Your program in Computer Science will consist of the following core courses: Principles I and II (with the language of JAVA), Software Applications, Computer Organization, Data Structures, Automata and Computability Theory, and Software Engineering. Upon completion of the majority of the core classes, students advance into the areas of computer architecture, database systems, systems programming, computer networking and telecommunications, artificial intelligence, computer security, graphics, and simulation.

Students have the opportunity to take courses in COBOL, E-Commerce, digital circuit design, UNIX, and GUI (graphical user interface) programming.

A minor area of study is required for the Computer Science major. Your department adviser will help you select courses for a minor that will best complement your special interests and career goals. We especially recommend a minor in one of the College of Business and Technology areas for those considering careers in commerce. Minors in such areas as Engineering Technology, Mathematics, and Law Enforcement and Justice Administration have also proven useful to our graduates.

## Integrated Five-Year BS/MS Option

Today's technology-dependent and ever-changing technology environment requires graduates with strong technical and leadership skills. In response to this need, Western Illinois University's Computer Science department offers an integrated program that will allow students to complete both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in just five years.

The program provides an opportunity for outstanding undergraduates to complete a traditional four-year undergraduate degree in Computer Science and then, with one additional year, earn a master's degree. Detailed information on this program is available from the department advising office by calling (309) 298-1619 or by e-mailing C-Science@wiu.edu.

## Faculty

The most important resource Western can provide to its students is its faculty. The Computer Science faculty is well-prepared to give you the education you want and deserve. You will find senior professors working with freshmen. You will find Ph.D. faculty from the finest institutions dedicated to providing the best possible instruction in the classroom.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## Scholarships

Detailed information on scholarships is available from the department advising office, (309) 298-1619; Western's Scholarship office, (309) 298-2001; or on the Web at [wiu.edu/Scholarship](http://wiu.edu/Scholarship).

## Honors in Computer Science

To be eligible for the Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours and up to 59 semester hours of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 semester hours or more. To find out more, visit [wiu.edu/Honors](http://wiu.edu/Honors).

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. In Computer Science, honors students take courses for honors credit and are eligible to take honors seminars.

## Student Activities

We strongly believe there is much more to education than bookwork and labwork, though these are important. We advise our students to become involved in other activities such as music, theatre, intramural sports, the student newspaper, student government, and, of course, the Computer Science Association (CSA). CSA is one place where you will be welcomed by others with similar interests and where you can learn about the latest advances through field trips and special presentations. We feel it is a vital part of your total education. Western's Computer Science department also hosts a chapter of the National Honorary Computer Society, Upsilon Pi Epsilon. This society provides special recognition to outstanding Computer Science majors.

## Computer Facilities

At Western, you will have access to a large IBM mainframe and SUN computers, and we have large laboratories of the latest microcomputers. Our access to microcomputers is as good as any university in the United States. It is our goal to give you experience on a variety of computing equipment and its associated software so that you can judge which type of equipment is best suited for the problems you encounter during your working career. For example, you will work on at least three different types of computers during your first four semesters at Western.

## After College

The demand for computer specialists grows every year. As a graduate in Computer Science from Western Illinois University, you'll be well-prepared for a variety of career opportunities in every conceivable type of commercial, industrial, governmental, research, and educational organization. Our graduates have found outstanding opportunities with companies like Boeing; Caterpillar; Country Companies Insurance; Deere & Co.; Inforte; Intel; Kraft Foods; Levy, Ray & Shoup; Lockheed Martin; Motorola, Inc.; Principal Financial Group; Rock Island Arsenal; State Farm; Ralston Purina; and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Many graduates have decided to specialize in an advanced area and have chosen to continue their education in our graduate program.

## For More Information

For more details on the Computer Science major, visit [wiu.edu/computerscience](http://wiu.edu/computerscience).

## Campus Visit

The Admissions Reception Center (Sherman Hall 115) is open most weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM when the University is in session. Group information sessions are available at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM, and campus tours are conducted at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM daily. Individual appointments with an admissions counselor, advisers/faculty, or a financial aid adviser may be arranged during the week. The Reception Admissions Center is open from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM most Saturdays when the University is in session. A group information session is available at 10:00 AM, and a campus tour is conducted at 11:00 AM. An individual appointment with an admissions counselor may be arranged. You may schedule your visit or tour online at [admissions.wiu.edu](http://admissions.wiu.edu) by selecting "Visit Campus." You may also schedule a visit, tour, or individual appointment by calling toll free (877) PICKWIU [742-5948] or (309) 298-3157, or by e-mailing [admissions@wiu.edu](mailto:admissions@wiu.edu).



**wiu.edu/  
computerscience**

### Department of Computer Science

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