COMPUTER SCIENCE

What can I do with this major?

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

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
PROGRAMMING Systems Scientific Applications Business Applications Intelligence Warehousing Information Delivery Maintenance Project Management	Computer vendors Software and computer companies Any large organization including: Banks, retail chains, manufacturers, universities, and government agencies Management consulting firms Contract and temporary employers Research laboratories	Gain relevant experience through internships or co-ops. Develop an attention to detail and a flair for creativity. Learn to work well with a team and to meet deadlines. Supplement computer degree with courses in business, science, or engineering. Stay current on programming languages. Earn a master's degree for upper level positions. Seek the Certified Computing Professional designation by completing a series of exams and experiential requirements.
SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT Analysis Design Support Quality Assurance Specialty Systems Database Client-Server Expert	Banks and financial institutions Insurance companies Consulting firms Manufacturers Local, state, and federal government Computer companies Research institutions	Develop strong interpersonal skills. Learn to communicate effectively with technical and non-technical colleagues. Gain programming experience. Many analysts begin their careers as programmers. Become an effective problem solver. Take business courses. Earn an M.B.A. degree for advanced positions. Plan to continually educate self on new computer languages and technology.
NETWORK TECHNOLOGY Installation and Maintenance Administration	Variety of organizations and industries	Work in university computer labs. Develop good communication skills and an interest in helping others. Gain knowledge in a variety of computer areas including minor programming, software, and hardware. Stay abreast of the latest technology and software. Earn certifications in networking and computer security.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
INTERNET Programming Software Design Systems Analysis Hardware Production Web Page Design	Network access points Backbone operators Online service providers Internet service providers Computer/equipment vendors Internet-related companies including: Browsers Search engines Website design services Large businesses	Gain experience as a webmaster through part-time jobs, internships, or volunteering to design web pages for student organizations. Learn web-related programming languages. Take graphic design courses to develop creativity. Learn to communicate and work well with others in a team by participating in group projects or student organizations. Earn a master's degree in computer science for advanced opportunities in programming, analysis, or hardware/software design.
CONSULTING System Installation System Implementation Training	Consulting firms Self-employed	Obtain a strong technical knowledge of computers, a background in business management, and experience as a systems analyst. Learn various programming languages and operating systems. Develop exceptional analytical and interpersonal skills.
EDUCATION Teaching Instructional Technology	Public and private schools, K-12 Colleges and universities	Certification required for public school teaching. Earn a doctoral degree in computer science for post-secondary teaching. Earn a graduate degree in information technology or a related field for instructional technology. Develop a research specialty for university teaching. Gain experience working with other students through tutoring or positions in computer labs.
NON-TECHNICAL Customer/Product Support Technical Writing Sales and Marketing	Software/hardware manufacturers Retail stores Software vendors	Develop excellent communication skills and an interest in helping customers solve problems. Work in university computer labs. Supplement curriculum with technical writing courses to develop skills. Seek related work experiences.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Complete informational interviews with current computer science professionals to help establish career goals.
- Having related experience is critical to most employers that hire computer science majors. Obtain an internship, co-op, or part-time job in a relevant area to increase employability.
- Obtain vendor specific certifications or networking certifications to gain a competitive edge.
- Develop strong interpersonal, communication, and other "soft skills." Learn to work well on a team.
- Programming and consulting may go hand-in-hand. Many occupations in these areas have responsibilities that overlap.