

HOW

can I prepare for a computing major?

Are you interested in a computing career, but aren't sure how to proceed? Check out these suggestions.



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Strategic Partners // National Science Foundation, Microsoft, and Bank of America
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In preparation for any major in college, there is no substitute for a solid, well-rounded education in high school. Take challenging courses and get good grades so you are ready to tackle rigorous coursework in college.

College computing programs look for students with a strong math and science background. A minimum of algebra and geometry should be completed, while trigonometry, calculus, physics, and chemistry are highly recommended. Your well-rounded high school education should also include English, social studies, foreign languages, and the arts.

Most high schools offer a college preparatory track and advanced placement courses and exams that prepare graduates for college-level work. Advanced Placement (AP) computer science courses strengthen your transcript and it is wise to take the Math SAT II Subject Test. If your test scores are sufficiently high, you can often receive credit for college courses and advanced placement.

You should check the admission and college entrance examination requirements at each school to which you want to apply. Consult a guidance counselor early in high school to plan your program of study and to research potential colleges.

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College Planning Timeline

Seek additional advice for each year leading up to college from national sources such as ACT and the College Board.

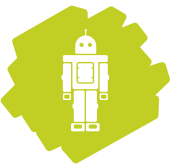
ACT College Planning Checklist: <http://www.actstudent.org/college/checklist.html>

College Board's planning resources: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan>

Here are some computing-specific recommendations to consider:

9TH GRADE

Think ahead to extracurricular activities that match your interests. You might join the robotics club, do community service that draws on your technical skill, or plan to attend a technology-based summer program or after-school workshop.



Find out which computer science courses are available at your high school and locally, and plan to take them.

10TH GRADE

Research pre-college summer opportunities at nearby colleges or universities; many offer computing camps.

Find a job shadow or internship at a business or organization where you can work with technical people.

Learn which colleges and universities offer the major — or majors — you are most interested in.

11TH GRADE

Develop a list of five to ten colleges that you are interested in. Let NCWIT know if you would like an introduction to a faculty member at a college or university that belongs to the NCWIT Academic Alliance.



Finalize plans to participate in an internship or a pre-college summer program.

12TH GRADE

Consider enrolling in courses at a local university or community college, particularly if there are courses that are suitable for your intended college major.

Check with your top schools to see how AP and college credit will apply to your degree program.

Continue looking for other opportunities to expand your computing experience.