

WHICH

computing majors *are right for me?*

Computing jobs are plentiful, and they pay well. Almost every major challenge facing our world is turning to computing for a solution, from conquering disease to eliminating hunger, from improving education to protecting the environment.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, computer science graduates received average starting salaries of \$61,205 — well above the average starting salary of \$48,351 offered to other 2010 graduates across professions.

Want in? A college degree in a computing major will make it happen. Read on to see how your interests and talents line up with different degrees and careers in computing.



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Do you want to help build the next generation of smart phones, nanotech media devices, interactive robots, 3D virtual reality “holodecks,” and even high-tech clothing? Or create new and more advanced medical tools?

COMPUTER ENGINEERING (CE) students study the design of digital hardware and software including devices such as global communications systems, wearable implantable computers, smart phones, digital players, personal video recorders (PVRs), internet alarm systems, high-tech body scanners, and even laser surgical tools. Increasingly, CE specialists integrate customized hardware and embedded software to improve existing technologies and invent new ones.

Do you love to solve puzzles or exchange theories about new ideas? Would you like to invent an app that helps rescue workers locate survivors?

COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS) professionals can conceive and create fun and valuable apps for mobile devices, Facebook, and Twitter. They design and build software and create efficient solutions to real-world problems in fields such as robotics, computer-enhanced vision, and digital forensics. CS is a foundation for many different computing careers.



Are you the one everyone calls when they want their own website? Are you the troubleshooter everyone turns to when their computer acts weird?

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) professionals support, troubleshoot, and design elements of the IT infrastructure — from websites to networks — in organizations ranging from business and government to schools, health care, and more. IT specialists possess the ideal combination of knowledge and practical, hands-on expertise to support both an organization’s technology infrastructure and the people who use it. They’re responsible for selecting hardware and software products, and they create and manage websites and networks to provide a secure, efficient, and productive environment for everyone.

Directors, composers, and architects — they all see the big picture. Do you? Creating software products involves a lot more than just writing code.

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS (SE) see the whole picture, too — the life cycle of a product, including efficiency and reliability, meeting customers’ budgets, proper testing, and maintenance. Software engineers combine experience in computer science, engineering, and user experience to design, define, and organize many aspects of a complex software product. Software engineering courses are offered both within computer science programs and as separate degrees.

Do you enjoy finding better ways to get things done using computers? Are you interested in understanding how computers can make businesses work better?

INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IS) specialists design and manage computing systems that help organizations achieve their goals. All IS degrees combine business and computing topics, but the emphasis between technical and organizational subjects varies. Most IS programs are found in business schools, and may go by such names as management information systems, computer information systems, or business information systems.

The information on this card can be found along with additional information at the ACM Computing Careers website: <http://computingcareers.acm.org/>.