**COMPUTER SCIENCE, B.S. (BEHREND)**

**Begin Campus:** Any Penn State Campus  
**End Campus:** Erie

**Program Description**

The goal of the Computer Science major at Behrend is to produce graduates with a firm foundation in the fundamentals of computer science along with a significant background in one or more of the natural sciences to provide context. Students are encouraged to pursue a minor in one of the natural sciences (biology, chemistry), math, or statistics. Students prepare for the major by taking lower-division courses in programming, discrete math, computer organization, and data communications. They then complete upper-division courses in data structures and algorithms, database management systems, net-centric programming, programming language fundamentals, and operating systems, and systems programming.

Graduates of this program will be prepared for a wide variety of computer-oriented careers in business, industry, and government, particularly in areas that require the practical application of computer science concepts and techniques to solving problems in the natural sciences. In addition, graduates will be prepared to pursue graduate study in computer science or in computationally intensive sub-disciplines of the natural sciences, such as bio-informatics, computational biology, computational physics, or computational chemistry.

**What is Computer Science?**

Computer scientists design and build software: from small web applications to operating systems and from stand-alone applications for desktop use to integrated systems found in places like the International Space Station. The study of computer science offers an educational foundation in not only system programming, database management, and data visualization, but also the unique and evolving fields of computer game development and network security. You’ll learn to use algorithms, design efficiencies, and computer system applications to improve the productivity of businesses, industry, education, and government—wherever there is a computer, there is a need for computer scientists.

**You Might Like This Program If...**

- You are your family's tech-support person.
- You use all of your devices’ capabilities, not just the obvious ones.
- You enjoy coding and programming, and also want to take coursework in the natural sciences and statistics.

**Entrance to Major**

To be eligible for entrance to the Computer Science (CMPBD) major, a student must have completed MATH 140, MATH 141, CMPSC 121, CMPSC 122, and one of the following: BIOL 110, or CHEM 110 and CHEM 111 or PHYS 211 with a grade of C or better in each of these courses.

**Degree Requirements**

For a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, a minimum of 122-123 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>97-98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Education**

Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education Requirements (http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program) section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol \(\ast\) appears next to the title of any course that is designated as a General Education course. Program requirements may also satisfy General Education requirements and vary for each program.

**Foundations (grade of C or better is required.)**

- Quantification (GQ): 6 credits
- Writing and Speaking (GWS): 9 credits

**Knowledge Domains**

- Arts (GA): 6 credits
- Health and Wellness (GHW): 3 credits
- Humanities (GH): 6 credits
- Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS): 6 credits
- Natural Sciences (GN): 9 credits

**Integrative Studies (may also complete a Knowledge Domain requirement)**

- Inter-Domain or Approved Linked Courses: 6 credits

21 of these 45 credits are included in the Requirements for the Major.

**University Degree Requirements**

**First Year Engagement**

All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

**Cultures Requirement**

6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

- United States Cultures: 3 credits
- International Cultures: 3 credits

**Writing Across the Curriculum**

3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.
Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Requirements for the Major
This includes 21 credits of General Education courses: 6 credits of GQ courses, 6 credits of GWS courses, 9 credits of GN courses.

A student enrolled in this major must earn at least a grade of C in each 300- and 400-level course in the major field.

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a grade of C or better in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Select 6 credits from the school approved list. Select 9 additional credits from CMPSC 302 or higher, CMPEN, or SWENG.

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information need to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (http://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy)

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### Suggested Academic Plan

#### Erie Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit (accessible in LionPATH as either an Academic Requirements or What If report). Please consult with a Penn State academic adviser on a regular basis to develop and refine an academic plan that is appropriate for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Supporting and Related</th>
<th>General Education Course</th>
<th>Elective</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>First Year</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMPSC 121†</td>
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<td>CMPSC 122†</td>
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<td>ENGL 15 or 30‡</td>
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<td>MATH 141†#†</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>MATH 140†#†</td>
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<td>Science Sequence Course†3</td>
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<td>PSU 7</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science Sequence Course (GN)†3</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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<td><em>Second Year</em></td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS 100††</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CMPSC 360*</td>
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<td>CMPSC 221</td>
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<td>ENGL 202G††</td>
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<td>STAT 301*</td>
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<td>Science Elective†4</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td><em>Third Year</em></td>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<td>CMPSC 312†1</td>
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<td>CMPSC 421‡2</td>
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<td>CMPSC 335†1</td>
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<td>CMPSC 474†4</td>
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<td>CMPSC 431†</td>
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<td>Computing Elective†5</td>
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<td>CMPSC 465*</td>
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<td>Science Elective†4</td>
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<td>CMPSC 485‡2</td>
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<td>CMPSC 484†1</td>
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<td>SWENG 411 (Computing Elective)†5</td>
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<td>Science Elective†4</td>
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Total Credits 119-120

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

- GWS, GQ, GH, GN, GA, GH, and GS are abbreviations used to identify General Education program courses. General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ) and Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS, and Integrative Studies). Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of "C" or better.

Integrative Studies courses are required for the General Education program. N is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate an Inter-Domain course and Z is the suffix at the end of a course number used to designate a Linked course.

1. This course is only offered in the FALL SEMESTER
2. This course is only offered in the SPRING SEMESTER
3. Students need to complete two of the following three semester science (GN) course sequences, which will also count toward their general education.
   - Biology: CHEM 110(3), BIOL 110S(4), and BIOL 220W(4) or BIOL 230W(4) or BIOL 240W(4)
   - Chemistry: CHEM 110(3), CHEM 111(1), CHEM 112(3), CHEM 113(1), and CHEM 210(3)
   - Physics: PHYS 211(4), PHYS 212(4), and PHYS 213(2) or PHYS 214(2)

4. It is strongly suggested (but not required) that students follow one of the natural science, math, or statistics minors in selecting their science electives.

Students may choose from the following courses:

- ASTRO 291 or higher; BIOL 110 or higher; CHEM 110 or higher; CMPSC 311 or higher
- GEOG 160 or higher; MATH 200 level or higher; METEO 101 or higher
- PHYS 211 or higher except PHYS 250 or PHYS 251
- STAT 300 level or higher

5. Students may select courses from CMPSC 312 or higher, CMPEN, or SWENG courses.

6. All 300 and 400-level courses in CMPSC (including CMPSC 494 - Research, CMPSC 495 - Internship, and/or CMPSC 496 - Independent Study), GAME, MIS, MATH, STAT, BIOL, CHEM, PHYS, ACCTG, ECON, FIN, PSYCH, and ROTC.

### Career Paths

Typical beginning careers for B.S. in Computer Science graduates include applications programmer, systems programmer, systems analyst, systems administrator, and network administrator. You also can prepare for emerging careers in data science, cognitive computing, and artificial intelligence. Penn State Behrend has a comprehensive support system to help you identify and achieve your goals for college and beyond. Meet with your academic adviser often and take advantage of the services offered by the Academic and Career Planning Center beginning in your first semester.
Careers

Students entering the workforce with a degree in computer science will find many opportunities in business, industry, government, and academia, and particularly in organizations with a science emphasis. These include traditional and emerging careers such as application programming, systems programming, systems analysis, systems administration, bioinformatics, network administration, and computer modeling. Employers of recent Behrend B.S. in Computer Science graduates include Amazon, Erie Insurance, Genesys, IBM, Larson Texts, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman.

MORE INFORMATION (http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-engineering/academic-programs/computer-science)

Opportunities for Graduate Studies

Graduate programs in computer science often delve more deeply into the intersections of computer science and the natural sciences, leading to careers in bioinformatics, computational chemistry or physics, or scientific visualization. Or, you can use a master’s degree to learn management skills; Penn State Behrend offers a Master of Manufacturing Management (M.M.M) degree program for aspiring organizational leaders.

MORE INFORMATION (http://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-engineering/academic-programs/master-of-manufacturing-management)

Professional Resources

- ABET (http://www.abet.org)
- Institution of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society (https://www.computer.org)
- Association for Computing Machinery (https://www.acm.org)
- Society of Women Engineers (http://societyofwomenengineers.swe.org)
- National Society of Black Engineers (http://www.nsbe.org/home.aspx)

Accreditation


ABET is a nonprofit, non-governmental accrediting agency for programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology and recognized as an accreditior by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. ABET accreditation is voluntary and provides assurance that a college or university program meets the quality standards of the profession for which that program prepares graduates. The School of Engineering at Penn State Behrend consistently places in the Top 50 in U.S. News & World Report’s rankings of the nation’s undergraduate engineering programs.

MORE INFORMATION (http://www.abet.org)

Contact

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