COMPUTER SCIENCE, B.S. (ENGINEERING)

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Beaver, Brandywine, Hazleton, University Park

Program Description
Computer Science is the study of computation, including its principles and foundations, its efficient implementation, its analysis, and its practical use in a wide range of different application areas. Computer Science is far more than just programming and no other science or engineering discipline has had a greater impact in such diverse areas as commerce, communication, entertainment, finance, medicine, the social sciences, the physical sciences and the life sciences. Computer Science impacts our daily lives in a multitude of ways and computer scientists are instrumental in driving these changes. Computer Science transforms the way we look at and live in our world.

The mission of our undergraduate program is to prepare our students for a wide range of careers as computer scientists, software engineers, software developers, and related positions in the field of computing. Our curriculum covers fundamental programming techniques and skills, broad knowledge of computer hardware, operating systems, programming languages, the mathematical foundations of computing, and advanced topics in software design and application development. Recurrent themes in the program include security, algorithmic complexity, cooperating systems, performance evaluation, and software correctness. This curriculum provides students with the skills needed to design, develop, evaluate, and analyze software solutions to a wide spectrum of computational problems and prepares them to be leaders in the rapidly changing field of computing throughout their careers.

What is Computer Science?
Computer science is the study of computational methods, including their principles and foundations, their efficient implementation, their analyses, and their practical application in wide-ranging areas. It includes the foundations of software development, computational problem solving, the principles of system software, and the fundamental principles and limits of computing. It is much more than just programming. It includes the mathematical foundations that support analyzing, evaluating, and proving the correctness of computational solutions. It includes specializations such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, data mining, high-performance computing, computer networks, computer graphics, computer vision, quantum computing, and others. It is continually evolving with the development of new and faster forms of computation and with the identification of new problems that require computational solutions.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You are interested in creating solutions to challenging problems involving computers
- You want to understand how to build and analyze complex software solutions
- You want to understand how computer hardware and software work and how to make them better
- You want to design software that impacts and improves people's everyday lives

Entrance to Major
University Park (CMPSC_BS)
This program currently has administrative enrollment controls. Administrative Enrollment Controls are initiated when limitations of space, faculty, or other resources in a major prevent accommodating all students who request them. Students must follow the administrative enrollment controls that are in effect for the semester that they enter the university.

First-Year Students Entering Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, students must satisfy the following requirements:
- be enrolled in the College of Engineering or the Division of Undergraduate Studies
- 29-55 graded Penn State credits (excludes transfer and AP credits)
- completed with a grade of C or better: CMPSC 121 or CMPSC 131, CMPSC 122 or CMPSC 132, MATH 140, MATH 141, PHYS 211
- earned a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 3.20

Students Who Entered Prior to Summer 2024
Students who entered the University from Summer 2018 through Spring 2024 should view the administrative enrollment controls in the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/). Students who entered the University prior to the summer 2018 semester should consult with their academic adviser about the administrative enrollment controls in effect for the semester they entered the university.

Beaver, Brandywine, Hazleton (CSENG_BS)
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, students must satisfy the following requirements by the end of the semester during which the admission to major process is carried out:
- 29-55 cumulative credits (excludes transfer and AP credits)
- completed with a grade of C or better: CMPSC 121 or CMPSC 131, CMPSC 122 or CMPSC 132, MATH 140, MATH 141, and PHYS 211
- earned a minimum cumulative grade-point average (GPA) of 2.60

* In the event that the major is under enrollment control, a higher minimum cumulative grade-point average is likely to be needed and students must be enrolled in the College of Engineering or Division of Undergraduate Studies at the time of confirming their major choice.

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, a minimum of 127 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requirements for the Major</td>
<td>106-108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24 of the 45 credits for General Education are included in the Requirements for the Major. This includes: 9 credits of GN courses; 6 credits of GQ courses; 9 credits of GWS courses.
Requirements for the Major

To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn 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.

**Prescribed Courses**

**Code** | **Title** | **Credits**
--- | --- | ---
CMPSC 464 | Introduction to the Theory of Computation | 3
MATH 220 | Matrices | 2-3
MATH 230 | Calculus and Vector Analysis | 4

**Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better**

CMPEN 331 | Computer Organization And Design | 3
CMPSC 221 | Object Oriented Programming with Web-Based Applications | 3
CMPSC 311 | Introduction to Systems Programming | 3
CMPSC 360 | Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science | 3
CMPSC 461 | Programming Language Concepts | 3
CMPSC 465 | Data Structures and Algorithms | 3
CMPSC 473 | Operating Systems Design & Construction | 3
ENGL 202C | Effective Writing: Technical Writing | 3
MATH 140 | Calculus With Analytic Geometry I | 4
MATH 141 | Calculus With Analytic Geometry II | 4

**Additional Courses**

Select 1 credit of First-Year Seminar | 1

Select one of the following: | 3

- STAT/MATH 318 | Elementary Probability | 3
- STAT/MATH 414 | Introduction to Probability Theory | 4
- STAT/MATH 418 | Introduction to Probability and Stochastic Processes for Engineering | 4

Select 6 credits from the following: | 6

- CMPEN 362 | Communication Networks | 3
- CMPEN 431 | Introduction to Computer Architecture | 3
- CMPEN 454 | Fundamentals of Computer Vision | 3
- CMPSC 442 | Artificial Intelligence | 3
- CMPSC 443 | Introduction to Computer and Network Security | 3
- CMPSC 444 | Secure Programming | 3
- CMPSC 450 | Concurrent Scientific Programming | 3
- CMPSC 451 | Numerical Computations | 3
- CMPSC 455 | Introduction to Numerical Analysis I | 3
- CMPSC 456 | Introduction to Numerical Analysis II | 3
- CMPSC 458 | Fundamentals of Computer Graphics | 3
- CMPSC 467 | Factorization and Primality Testing | 3
- CMPSC 471 | Introduction to Compiler Construction | 3
- CMPSC 475 | Applications Programming | 3
- EE 456 | Introduction to Neural Networks | 3

Select 3 credits from any CMPEN or CMPSC course numbered 400-489 | 3

**Additional Courses: Require a grade of C or better:**

- CMPSC 121 | Introduction to Programming Techniques | 3
- CMPSC 131 | Programming and Computation I: Fundamentals | 3
- CMPSC 122 | Intermediate Programming | 3
- CMPSC 132 | Programming and Computation II: Data Structures | 3
- CMPEN 270 | Digital Design: Theory and Practice | 4
- CMPEN 271 | Introduction to Digital Systems & CMPEN 275 | 4
- CMPEN 362 | Digital Design Laboratory | 4

ENGL 15 | Rhetoric and Composition | 3
- ENGL 137H | Rhetoric and Civic Life I | 3
- ENGL 138T | Rhetoric and Civic Life II | 3
- or CAS 100A | Effective Speech | 0-4
- or CAS 100B | Effective Speech | 0-4

**Supporting Courses and Related Areas**

Select 2-3 credits from the following: 2-3

- PHYS 213 | General Physics: Fluids and Thermal Physics | 3
- PHYS 214 | General Physics: Wave Motion and Quantum Physics | 3

Select 3 credits from the approved list of natural sciences courses | 0-4

Select 0-4 credits in a foreign language (second-semester proficiency) | 0-4

Select 10-14 credits from department list. Students may apply up to 10-14 credits of ROTC as department list credits and 3 credits of ROTC as GHW credits. | 0-4

Select 6 credits in non-CMPEN or CMPSC courses numbered 400-489 in consultation with adviser | 6

**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 section of the Bulletin and consult your academic adviser.

The keystone symbol 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 and Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

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

**Breadth in the Knowledge Domains (Inter-Domain courses do not meet this requirement.)**

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

Integrative Studies
• Inter-Domain Courses (Inter-Domain): 6 credits

Exploration
• GN, may be completed with Inter-Domain courses: 3 credits
• GA, GH, GN, GS, Inter-Domain courses. This may include 3 credits of World Language course work beyond the 12th credit level or the requirements for the student's degree program, whichever is higher: 6 credits

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 advisor 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 advisor 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 (https://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.

Integrated B.S. in Computer Science and M.I.A. in International Affairs
Requirements for the Integrated B.S. in Computer Science and M.I.A. in International Affairs can be found in the Graduate Bulletin (https://bulletins.psu.edu/graduate/programs/majors/international-affairs/integratedundergradgradprogramtext).

Program Educational Objectives
Graduates of our Computer Science degree will be prepared with technical knowledge and professional skills for the practice and future development in their profession along different career paths. We expect them to engage in continuous learning activities, to continue to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders in multidisciplinary and multicultural work environments, and to maintain a strong commitment to ethical practices in their profession. Due to their experience in our program, within few years of their graduation we expect our graduates to have the following career and professional accomplishments:

1. Those employed in industry and focused on technical accomplishments will demonstrate professional advancement by their promotion or other recognition of their technical skills.
2. Those who pursue additional formal education related to their technical skills, either directly or soon after graduation, will have completed or be near completion of a graduate degree or other technical certification.
3. Those who pursue career paths or formal education unrelated or tangential to their degree program will have applied their broad educational skills, including analytical problem solving, communication and independent learning, towards a new discipline.
4. Those employed by government or industry and focused on leadership will demonstrate professional advancement through expanded leadership responsibility based on their acquired technical knowledge and experience.
5. Those employed by government or industry and focused on management will demonstrate professional advancement through expanded management responsibilities based on their acquired management training and experience.

Student Outcomes
Student outcomes describe what students are expected to know and be able to do by the time of graduation. The Computer Science program is designed to enable students to:

1. Analyze a complex computing problem and to apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.
2. Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.
3. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.
4. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.
5. Function effectively as a member or leader of a team engaged in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.
6. Apply computer science theory and software development fundamentals to produce computing-based solutions.

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 needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

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

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2024-25 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition.

Computer Science, B.S. at University Park 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.

If you are starting at a campus other than the one this plan is ending at, please refer to: https://advising.engr.psu.edu/degree-requirements/academic-plans-by-major.aspx

First Year

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<th>Fall</th>
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<td>CMPSC 121 or 131†‡</td>
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<td>CMPSC 122 or 132‡</td>
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<td>MATH 140 (GQ)†‡</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 (GWS)‡</td>
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<td>PHYS 211 (GN, PHYSICS 211L &amp; PHYSICS 211R)†‡</td>
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General Education Course | 3 |
General Education Course | 3 |
Total | 16 | 15 |

Second Year

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Spring</th>
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<tr>
<td>CMPSC 221*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 220</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>CMPSC 311*</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 212 (GN, PHYSICS 212L &amp; PHYSICS 212R)†‡</td>
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<td>Natural Science Elective (GN, See College Note below for options that DO NOT count)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS 100A or 100B (GWS)‡†</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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16-17 | 15-16 |

Third Year

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<th>Fall</th>
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<tr>
<td>CMPSC 465*</td>
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<td>CMPSC 464</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPEN 331†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>CMPSC 473*</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 318</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 319</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 461*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>ENGL 202C (GWS)‡†</td>
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</table>

World Language | 4 | General Education Course | 3 |

16 | 15 |

Fourth Year

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<td>CMPSC Elective†</td>
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<td>General Education Course</td>
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<td>General Education Course (GHW)</td>
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17.5 | 16.5 |

Total Credits 127-129

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement
‡† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

1 Select from department list. Restrictions may apply. Computer Science Electives are NOT offered every semester or every year. Contact the department for information on which classes are scheduled to be offered during a given semester.
Select 3 credits from any 400-489 CMPSC or CMPEN course that does not duplicate material already taken or required. No CMPSC/CMPEN 494H or CMPSC/CMPEN 496 may be substituted. CMPSC/CMPEN 497 must be petitioned prior to taking the course.

University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student’s program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

College Notes:

• **NATURAL SCIENCES ELECTIVE:** Choose any GN-designated course EXCEPT the following: ASTRO 1, 7N, 10, 11, 120, or 140; all below CHEM 110 (except 3 credits of CHEM 106); all below PHYS 211; PHYS 250 or 251; all BI SC; and GEOSC 20.

• **CMPSC/CMPEN 4XX:** Select any 400-489 CMPSC or CMPEN course offered at University Park.

• **Computer Science Elective:** Select from department list. Restrictions may apply. Computer Science Electives are NOT offered every semester or even every year. Contact the department for information on which classes are scheduled to be offered during a given semester.

• **Department List Elective:** Select from department list. Restrictions may apply. Students who complete the ROTC Program may substitute 3 ROTC credits for a Department List Elective. Students who complete the Cooperative Education Program may substitute 3 co-op credits for a Department List Elective.

• **Health and Wellness:** Students who complete the ROTC Program may substitute 3 ROTC credits for the GHW requirement and 3 ROTC credits for a Department List Elective.

• **Supporting Course:** Select from department list. Restrictions may apply.
**Computer Science, B.S. at Beaver 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.

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<th>Fall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 121 or 131**‡#</td>
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</tr>
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<td>MATH 140**‡**‡#</td>
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<td>MATH 141**‡**‡#</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENGL 15 (GWS)***†</td>
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<td>PHYS 211 (GN, PHYSICS 211L &amp; PHYSICS 211R)**‡‡</td>
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### Second Year

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<td>MATH 220</td>
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<td>CMPSC 311*</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Natural Science Elective (GN, See College Note below for options that DO NOT count)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAS 100A (GWS)**†</td>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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<td>CMPSC 473**</td>
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### Fourth Year

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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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</table>

**Total Credits 129**

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major
† Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education
‡ Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

1. Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement.
2. Select 3 credits from any 400-489 CMPSC or CMPEN course that does not duplicate material already taken or required. No CMPSC/CMPEN 494H or CMPSC/CMPEN 496 may be substituted. CMPSC/CMPEN 497 must be petitioned prior to taking the course.

### University Requirements and General Education Notes:

US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).

W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.

General Education includes Foundations (GWS and GQ), Knowledge Domains (GHW, GN, GA, GH, GS) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of 'C' or better.

All incoming Schreyer Honors College first-year students at University Park will take ENGL 137H/CAS 137H in the fall semester and ENGL 138T/CAS 138T in the spring semester. These courses carry the GWS designation and satisfy a portion of that General Education requirement. If the student's program prescribes GWS these courses will replace both ENGL 15/ENGL 30H and CAS 100A/CAS 100B/CAS 100C. Each course is 3 credits.

### Program Notes:

- **NATURAL SCIENCES ELECTIVE**: Choose any GN-designated course EXCEPT the following: ASTRO 1, 7N, 10, 11, 120, or 140; all below CHEM 110 (except 3 credits of CHEM 106); all below PHYS 211; PHYS 250 or 251; all BI SC; and GEOSC 20.
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- **Supporting Course**: Select from department list. Restrictions may apply.
**Computer Science, B.S. at Brandywine 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.

### First Year

**Fall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>MATH 140*†</td>
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<td>MATH 141*†</td>
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<td>CMPSC 131*§</td>
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<td>PSU 12‡</td>
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**General Education Course** (suggested IST 110 or SRA 111)³

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<tr>
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**General Education Course†** 3

### Second Year

**Fall**

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<th>Course</th>
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<td>PHYS 212*†</td>
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<td>MATH 220²</td>
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<td>CMPEN 271*† &amp; CMPEN 275* or CMPEN 270*</td>
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<td>ENGL 202C††</td>
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**General Education Course (GHW)¹**

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**General Education Course (GHW)¹** 1.5

### Third Year

**Fall**

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<td>CMPEN 331*¹</td>
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<td>CMPSC 473*²</td>
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<td>STAT 318¹</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>STAT 319²</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPSC 461*†</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>General Education Course†</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
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**General Education Course†** 3

### Fourth Year

**Fall**

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<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>CMPSC 431W¹ or CMPSC 483W²</td>
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<td>CMPSC/CMPEN 400-level</td>
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<td>Supporting Course</td>
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<td>Department List (General Elective)</td>
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<td>General Education Course†</td>
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<td>Department List (General Elective)</td>
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</table>

**Department List Elective** 4

### Total Credits 129

---

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Computer Science, B.S. at Hazleton Campus

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<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
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<td>CAS 100A†</td>
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<td>MATH 140°/†</td>
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<td>CMPSC 132W</td>
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|    | **17** | **17** |

### Second Year

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<th>Spring</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>CMPSC 221†</td>
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<td>MATH 220</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 212†</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>ENGL 202C†</td>
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<td>General Education GHW†</td>
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<td>Natural Science Elective (GN, See College Note below for options that DO NOT count)†</td>
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<td>General Education GHW†</td>
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|    | **17** | **16** |

### Third Year

<table>
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<td>STAT 318†</td>
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<td>STAT 319†</td>
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<td>CMPSC 461†</td>
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<td>General Education Course†</td>
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<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
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|    | **16** | **15** |

### Fourth Year

<table>
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<td>CMPSC 431W† or CMPSC 483W²</td>
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|    | **16** | **15** |

**Total Credits 129**

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

### Career Paths

Computer science has had major impacts in such diverse areas as commerce, communication, engineering, entertainment, finance, health sciences, social sciences, physical sciences, and life sciences. Computer scientists do far more than just construct software. They apply their skills and knowledge to solve challenging problems using sound computational
methods. They work collaboratively in teams to build complex systems with many integrated parts. They research, study, and develop new technologies, new applications of computing, and new ways to compute.

**Careers**

Computer science graduates typically find positions as software engineers and software developers in major companies like Google, Apple, Microsoft, IBM, Facebook, and Intel. Graduates are also highly recruited by major companies in the areas of finance, health care, aerospace, and defense. Most graduates will find themselves a part of a team of software developers and after a few years possibly leading a software team. With the rapid changes and advances in the field of computing, graduates must continually keep up with the latest technology as their careers adapt and evolve to meet the new opportunities and challenges of computing.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES OF THE COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM (https://career.engr.psu.edu)

**Opportunities for Graduate Studies**

Graduates of this program can pursue graduate studies in computer science and related disciplines, concentrating in specialized areas such as computer security, artificial intelligence, machine learning, data sciences, computer networks, computer vision, bioinformatics, and high-performance computing. A master's degree allows one to specialize beyond the broad foundations offered by a bachelor's degree. A doctoral degree prepares one for a career in research and academia.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATE STUDIES (https://www.eecs.psu.edu/students/graduate/EECS-Graduate-Prospective.aspx)

**Professional Resources**

- ACM (https://acm.psu.edu)
- Association of Women in Computing (https://awc.cse.psu.edu/)
- IEEE (https://sites.psu.edu/psuieee/)

**Accreditation**

The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science at University Park, Penn State Beaver, Penn State Brandywine, and Penn State Hazleton is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, https://www.abet.org, under the commission's General Criteria and Program Criteria for Computer Science and Similarly Named Computing Programs.

**Contact**

**University Park**

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

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University Park, PA 16802
814-865-9505
trk149@psu.edu
bam136@psu.edu

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724-773-3814

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**Brandywine**

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ras322@psu.edu

https://www.brandywine.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/computer-science (https://www.brandywine.psu.edu/academics/bachelors-degrees/computer-science/)

**Hazleton**

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Hazleton, PA 18202
570-450-3081
bp55682@psu.edu

https://hazleton.psu.edu/computer-science (https://hazleton.psu.edu/computer-science/)