

Computer Science

Department Information

- **Department Location:**
Quentin Burdick Building 258
- **Department Phone:**
701-231-8562
- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/cs/
- **Credential Offered:**
B.S.; B.A.
- **Official Program Curriculum:**
bulletin.ndsu.edu/undergraduate/program-curriculum/computer-science/

The Department of Computer Science at North Dakota State University offers course work leading to bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in computer science and, at the graduate level, in software engineering. Options in cybersecurity are available within the computer science and software engineering M.S. and Ph.D. programs. The department is a designated Center for Academic Excellence in cybersecurity research (CAE-R) by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Background Information

As an undergraduate student, an advisor is assigned to help in choosing electives in their particular area of interest. For students with no or very limited computer experience, we offer introductory courses in the standard curriculum for majors. Advanced undergraduate students may have the opportunity to take graduate courses while completing their undergraduate program. An extensive and varied set of elective courses in every aspect of computer science is available as well.

The Program

Both a B.A. and a B.S. in Computer Science are offered. We also offer several double majors, including Math and Computer Science, Physics and Computer Science, and Statistics and Computer Science. A 4+1 program is available for undergraduates with a 3.5 grade point average or better to complete a B.S. and an M.S. in as little as five years. In the 4+1 program, graduate courses taken while an undergraduate student are used for both the B.S. and M.S. degree requirements.

We offer the most comprehensive and varied computer science programs in the region. In the core courses required of all majors, students are offered an opportunity to study concepts, applications and implementation techniques which provide a broad and practical base both for a satisfying, well-paying career in computer science, and for advanced study. The curriculum offers an opportunity for an in-depth study of topics such as artificial intelligence, software engineering, cybersecurity, machine learning, data science, cybersecurity, system simulation, computer communication networks, multimedia, operating systems and database management systems. A departmental recognition in cybersecurity is offered within the B.S. degree program. The department is expanding offerings in software engineering, data mining, and bioinformatics. Students are encouraged to choose courses from related areas, such as business, economics, engineering, mathematics, operations research and statistics to broaden their program of study. A senior capstone experience that provides a semester long project for industry is required and provides an opportunity to add maturity to the computer science skill set before graduation. Starting with the junior year, students may pursue co-op and internship opportunities.

Career Opportunities

Computer scientists choose jobs in government, industry, teaching, research, agriculture, energy and other areas. A 2019 study showed that four of the eleven jobs with the most potential for growth are in areas taught by the Department. Graduates in computer science might choose a job any of these areas: artificial intelligence, systems analysis, software development/engineering, security, information assurance, cybersecurity, bioinformatics, data science, web development, networking, information system development, database management, technical support, automatic systems, robotics, simulation models and internet of things.

According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, software engineers, cybersecurity analysts, network systems and data communication analysts, computer scientists and database administrators are expected to be among the fastest growing occupations. Employment of these computer specialists is expected to increase much faster than average. Our programs provide excellent foundations for successful careers in these areas. As an undergraduate student, you will find many opportunities to work part-time as a research assistant on campus, or as a paid intern with a local or regional business.

Graduates of our department have recently accepted employment in major national businesses, including Hewlett-Packard, IBM, AT&T, Apple, CISCO Systems, Google, Adesto, Cargill, SGI, FAST Enterprises, Medtronic, Microsoft, Bobcat, Facebook, Digi-Key, John Deere, Amazon, Intel, Raytheon, Target Corp. and Thomson Reuters. Many have chosen positions in North Dakota and adjoining states. There is a large and growing need for computer professionals in North Dakota.

During the final semester of their senior year, students take part in a capstone program. The objective of the capstone program is to provide the students with an experience that brings together the technical knowledge they have acquired while fostering valuable teamwork skills. This is accomplished by working in small teams on real-life projects. Capstone projects are done in conjunction with corporate, industrial or government clients/sponsors. Recent sponsors include Adventium, Aeritae Consulting, Appareo, ATC, BargInns, BCBSND, Border States Electric, Botlink, Bushel, Capturis, Collins Aerospace, Fjorge, IBM, Inwerken, John Deere, Marvin Windows, Microsoft, NAU Country, Noridian, OpenStack, Pedigree Technologies, Scheels, and UGPTI.

The Facilities

The department is located in the Quentin Burdick Building along with Information Technology Services. Students have free access to a wide range of computer systems.

Equipment includes running a cluster of Linux workstations, cyber range, drones, microcomputers, and 3D printers; running virtual machines, Windows, Macs, and peripheral equipment including visualization systems. The department and the University have assumed a leadership role in computer networking through the acquisition and implementation of high-bandwidth network switches on campus. The University also has entered into a six-state consortium for extremely high level networking in the Upper Midwest. The high-performance Center for Computationally Assisted Science and Technology (CCAST) is available. We are also a charter member of Internet2 and have connectivity to the national vBNS research network. The department maintains several Web servers with class assignments and other information which are accessed by thousands of users each day. The University provides more than 600 computers for student use. Internet usage is unlimited for students.

High School Preparation

You should have the basic college preparatory courses in high school. Courses that develop the ability to think logically, to organize and to analyze are especially recommended (e.g., algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and calculus).

Plans of Study

Please note this is a sample plan of study and not an official curriculum. Actual student schedules for each semester will vary depending on start year, education goals, applicable transfer credit, and course availability. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor on a regular basis to review degree progress and customize an individual plan of study.

B.S. Calculus Ready 4-Year Plan

Freshman			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 160	4	CSCI 161	4
MATH 165	4	MATH 166	4
Gen Ed Science/Tech and Lab	4	ENGL 120	3
ENGL 110	4	Gen Ed Science/Tech	3
		Gen Ed HUM/FA and Cultural Diversity	3
	16		17
Sophomore			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 213	3	CSCI 313	3
CSCI 222	3	CSCI 336	3
COMM 110	3	Gen Ed Soc/Beh Sci and Global Perspectives	3
Gen Ed SOC/BehSci	3	Gen Ed Wellness	2-3
Gen Ed Science/Tech	3	Elective	3
	15		14-15
Junior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 372	3	CSCI 467	3
STAT 367	3	STAT 368	3
CSCI 366	3	CSCI 374	3
Gen Ed HUM/FA	3	ENGL 321 or 324	3

CSCI Elective I	3	Elective	3
	15		15

Senior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 489	3	CSCI 415	3
CSCI 474	3	CSCI 445	3
CSCI elective II	3	CSCI Elective III	3
Additional Electives	4	Additional Elective	6
	13		15

Total Credits: 120-121

Please note this is a sample plan of study and not an official curriculum. Actual student schedules for each semester will vary depending on start year, education goals, applicable transfer credit, and course availability. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor on a regular basis to review degree progress and customize an individual plan of study.

B.S. Preparatory Mathematics Course Required

Freshman			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 122 or 159	3	CSCI 160	4
ENGL 110	4	ENGL 120	3
Gen Ed Science and Tech	4	Gen Ed Science/Tech	3
Pre-Calculus course per placement	3	Pre-Calculus course	3
	14		13

Sophomore					
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits	Summer	Credits
CSCI 161	4	COMM 110	3	CSCI 213	3
MATH 165	4	MATH 166	4		
Gen Ed Science/Tech	3	Gen Ed Soc/Beh Sci and Glob Persp	3		
Gen Ed Soc/Beh Sci	3	Gen Ed Hum/FineArt and Cult Div	3		
Gen Ed Wellness	2				
	16		13		3

Junior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 222	3	CSCI 313	3
CSCI 366	3	CSCI 336	3
STAT 367	3	CSCI 374	3
CSCI 372	3	STAT 368	3
Gen Ed Hum/FineArt	3		
	15		12

Senior			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI Elective I	3	CSCI Elective III	3
CSCI Elective II	3	CSCI 445	3
CSCI 474	3	CSCI 415	3

CSCI 489	3 CSCI 467	3
ENGL 321 or 324	3 Electives	7
	15	19

Total Credits: 120

Please note this is a sample plan of study and not an official curriculum. Actual student schedules for each semester will vary depending on start year, education goals, applicable transfer credit, and course availability. Students are encouraged to work with their academic advisor on a regular basis to review degree progress and customize an individual plan of study.

B.A. Plan of Study

First Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 159	3	ENGL 120	3
MATH 105	3	CSCI 160	4
CSCI 114	3	MATH 146	4
ENGL 110	4	First Year Language 102	4
First Year Language 101	4		
	17		15
Second Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 161	4	COMM 110	3
COMM 260	3	CSCI 222	3
Second Year Language 201	3	CSCI 371	3
Gen Ed Soc/Beh Sci	3	Second Year Language 202	3
	13		12
Third Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 213	3	CSCI 313	3
STAT 330	3	STAT 331	2
COMM 261	3	ENGL 321 or 324	3
Gen Ed Wellness	2	Gen Ed Science	3
Gen Ed Science and Tech/Lab	4	Gen Ed Soc/Beh Sci	3
	15		14
Fourth Year			
Fall	Credits	Spring	Credits
CSCI 366	3	CSCI 445	3
CSCI 489	3	Elective (#300 or higher)	3
CSCI 488	3	Gen Ed	6
Elective (#300 or higher)	3	Electives	4
Elective	6		
	18		16

Total Credits: 120