Transfer QuickGuide

Computer Science at UNC

Are you a transfer student interested in majoring in computer science while at UNC Chapel Hill? Here are a few helpful tips:

General information about the Computer Science Program
(UNC-Chapel Hill Undergraduate Bulletin, 2016)

The Department of Computer Science offers instruction and performs research in the essential areas of computer science. Majors receive rigorous training in the foundations of programming and mathematics and have the opportunity to specialize in software systems, programming languages, theoretical computer science, or applications of computing technology. Majors can also receive credit for practical training as a computing professional through an internship in the computing or information technology fields. The Bachelor of Arts degree is designed for those whose interests in computing span the boundaries of multiple disciplines and who wish to integrate their study of computing with studies in a related discipline. The BA degree will prepare you for a career in either a traditional computing field or a field in which computing is a significant enabling technology.

The BS degree in computer science is the preferred degree both for graduate study in computer science and for technical careers in software development, computational science, networking, information systems, and electronic commerce.

Careers and Skills // A major in Computer Science will prepare you for a variety of careers.

Computer Science is now a field of study that enables students to pursue substantive carriers in virtually all segments of today’s economy. Any significant enterprise either develops or uses information technology and computer science majors are able to contribute in a wide variety of roles ranging from hands on coding, to project management, to systems design and use, to complex problem solving. Common job titles include: software applications developer, computer systems analyst, computer systems engineer, database administrator, and web developer. There are also opportunities for entrepreneurship and research on cutting edge technologies in computer science.

Does it matter if I get a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts?

For entry into most career tracks, what matters most are the courses taken, grades earned, and pertinent experiences (e.g. service learning, undergraduate research, or post-baccalaureate work), not necessarily the degree earned. It is an individual decision to select a BA or a BS; however, we strongly recommend that transfer students consider the time it will take to complete their degree prior to transferring to UNC. We also recommend that new transfer students take no more than two science and math courses during their first semester at UNC, as science courses can be challenging and time consuming.
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As it is often challenging to fit all the requirements for a BS into the time allotted to transfer students, all students interested in pursuing a BS in computer science should contact Academic Advising as soon as they matriculate to discuss their options and schedule.

**Major Requirements // If you plan to transfer with junior status and graduate with a BA or a BS after transferring to UNC, these are courses that we recommend be completed prior to transfer.**

To pursue either the BA or BS, complete:
- ☐ MATH 231 – Calculus of Functions of One Variable I
- ☐ STOR 155 – Statistics 1
- ☐ Introductory Programming Course

If you wish to pursue a BS, you should also complete:
- ☐ MATH 232 – Calculus of Functions of One Variable II
- ☐ MATH 233 – Calculus of Functions of Several Variables
- ☐ PHYS 118 – Mechanics
- ☐ A second life science course (e.g., ASTR 101/101L, BIOL 101/101L, CHEM 101/101L)

*In addition to the above courses, you will need to complete the following courses by the time you graduate from UNC.*

To pursue either the BA or the BS complete:
- ☐ COMP 283 – Discrete Structures or MATH 381 – Discrete Mathematics
- ☐ COMP 401 – Foundation of Programming
- ☐ COMP 410 – Data Structures
- ☐ COMP 411 – Computer Organization

To pursue the BA, you must also complete:
- ☐ Six (6) computer science courses numbered 426 or higher

If you wish to pursue a BS, you must also complete:
- ☐ COMP 455 – Models of Languages and Computation
- ☐ COMP 550 – Algorithms and Analysis
- ☐ Five (5) additional computer science courses numbered 426 or higher
- ☐ MATH 547 – Linear Algebra for Applications
- ☐ STOR 435 – Introduction to Probability
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Computer Science at UNC

Why major in Computer Science at UNC?
“I transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill from a college in China. The experience here has been great. The teachers are innovative and the classes are tough, but in a way that makes you learn. This is the best way to get ready for a career in computer sciences.” — Aaron Zhong, Transfer Student, 2016

“Come to Carolina and study Comp Sci. What can you do with that? Almost anything!” — Fred Londis, Transfer Student, 2016

Important Links
If you are a prospective transfer student and have additional questions about majoring in computer science at UNC, please refer to one of the links below or contact the UNC admissions office (admissions.unc.edu/contact-us/).

Computer Science Department Homepage: cs.unc.edu/
Undergraduate Bulletin: unc.edu/ugradbulletin/depts/compsci.html
Resources for Student Success: studentsuccess.unc.edu
Transfer Resources: transfers.unc.edu
Summer School at UNC: summer.unc.edu
What Can I Do with This Major? careers.unc.edu/students/explore-majors-and-careers
Will my courses transfer? admissions.unc.edu/credit/credit/transfer-equivalencies/

You can also connect with the Computer Science Department directly by reaching out to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Diane Pozefsky (pozefsky@cs.unc.edu).