We look forward to you joining the Illinois Grainger Engineering community and the Department of Computer Science. By choosing Grainger Engineering as your destination for an education in Computer Science, you’re choosing to join a rich history of excellence at the forefront of computing research, innovation, and education within a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem. You will join a community of diverse and talented people and enjoy a remarkable quality of life—both inside and outside the classroom. Our graduates have gone on to launch entirely new industries, generate billions of dollars in commerce, create tens of thousands of jobs, and revolutionize the way people communicate, shop, conduct business, and are entertained.

At Illinois, your next few years will be life changing—full of opportunities and experiences that will shape you into a great engineer. You’ll meet people from around the world and from all walks of life. You will accomplish things that some only dream of. You will be equipped to create the change you want to see in the world. And we the faculty and staff of Computer Science will be with you every step of the way to provide support and guidance so that you can discover your passion and successfully join the network of 80,000+ Grainger Engineering alumni around the world.

Learn more about the boundless opportunities that await you in Computer Science at Illinois, and we hope that you will accept your offer to join us in August!

SINCERELY,

NANCY M. AMATO
Abel Bliss Professor and Department Head
The University of Illinois boasts one of the largest computer science departments in the nation. With a top-tier student body and a broad faculty base, our students have opportunities to explore the full depth and breadth of the computing challenges that lie ahead. Illinois Computer Science students are the next generation of entrepreneurs, researchers, scholars, academicians, and business and industry giants.

A hands-on education at Illinois means our students learn from the best in the classroom and in the laboratory, preparing them for leadership positions in the academy and industry. Companies that have been founded or led by Illinois CS graduates include C3.ai, Malwarebytes, Match.com, Microsoft, Netscape, Optimizely, PayPal, YouTube, and Yelp. Students can regularly attend TechTalks, career fairs, and networking events to explore internship and career opportunities.

WHAT YOU’LL STUDY

Illinois Computer Science (CS) offers nearly 20 undergraduate degree programs based on the same set of core CS courses, but with a second field of interest tailored to fit your passion—whether that’s more computer science or the fundamentals of another discipline through CS + X, or X + Data Science (X + DS). CS students in The Grainger College of Engineering will gain a broad and deep knowledge of the theory, design, and application of computer systems, with an emphasis on software systems.

Undergraduate students in the CS program may apply to complete one of our Fifth Year Master’s Programs. Otherwise, the differences in requirements between the degree programs generally reflect the differences in their focus, with students in The Grainger College of Engineering taking a Physics sequence and science electives, while Mathematics & CS and Statistics & CS students take additional mathematics and statistics courses. CS + X students pursue a program of study incorporating a strong grounding in computer science with technical or professional training in the arts and sciences. X + DS students pursue a program of study that includes principles for data collection, storage, integration, analysis, inference, communication, and ethics.

WHAT YOU’LL STUDY

Architecture, Compilers, and Parallel Computing
Artificial Intelligence
Bioinformatics and Computational Biology
Computer and Education
Data and Information Systems
Interactive Computing
Programming Languages, Formal Methods, and Software Engineering
Scientific Computing
Security and Privacy
Systems and Networking
Theory and Algorithms

#5 ranked computer science program by U.S. News & World Report

NEARLY 77% of graduates enter the workforce full-time, and 20% enroll in additional education

$112,975 average starting salary

95% of students reported having an internship or co-op during their degree program

nearly 40% of first-year CS students in the Grainger College of Engineering were women, almost 20% better than the national average.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Illinois provides the proper knowledge and training, but also the friendships and network that became equally valuable. I formed great partnerships over the years, and each person was incredibly important to any success I've achieved. It's those ties that equate to success.

- Jason Cong
CS Graduate