COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

Program Directors: Michael Hicks, Ph.D., and David Mount, Ph.D.

Computer science is the study of computers and computational systems: their application, design, development and theory. Principal areas within computer science include machine learning and data science, cybersecurity and privacy, human-computer interaction, artificial intelligence, programming languages, software engineering, computer systems and networking, algorithms and theory of computing, natural language processing, high-performance and quantum computing, databases systems, bioinformatics, robotics, computer vision, information visualization, and virtual- and augmented-reality systems. A computer scientist is concerned with problem solving. Problems range from abstract questions of what problems can be solved with computers to practical matters such as the design of computer systems that are efficient, secure, and easy for people to use.

Admission to the Major

The Computer Science major is a Limited Enrollment Program. Please see the admission requirements and procedures at lep.umd.edu (http://lep.umd.edu/). (https://lep.umd.edu/)

Placement in Courses

Much of the knowledge at the early stage of the degree program is cumulative. To ensure that transfer and new students start with the appropriate courses, the department offers exemption exams for CMSC131, CMSC132, CMSC216, and CMSC250. Students who have taken CS courses prior to starting at Maryland can visit http://undergrad.cs.umd.edu/exemption-exams (http://undergrad.cs.umd.edu/exemption-exams/) for more information.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. Graduates will be able to create, augment, debug, and test computer software. These skills will be built progressively through the courses in the introductory sequence and in some courses beyond that.
2. Graduates will develop mathematical and reasoning skills that are needed for computer science.
3. Graduates will be able to design and implement programming projects that are similar to those seen in the real world.
4. Graduates will gain skills in communication.
5. Academic Research (Optional): Graduates will be able to work independently on a project.

Requirements

Much of the knowledge at the early stage of the degree program is cumulative. To ensure that transfer students start with the appropriate courses, the department offers exemption exams for CMSC131, CMSC132, CMSC216 and CMSC250. Students who have had CS courses prior to starting at Maryland are encouraged to schedule and take exemption exams.

A "C-" or better must be earned in all major requirements.

Course Title Credits
Required Lower Level Courses (Unless Exempt)
MATH140 Calculus I (see your advisor) 4
MATH141 Calculus II 4

CMSC131 Object-Oriented Programming I 4
CMSC132 Object-Oriented Programming II 4
CMSC216 Introduction to Computer Systems 4
CMSC250 Discrete Structures 4

Additional Required Courses
CMSC330 Organization of Programming Languages 3
CMSC351 Algorithms 3
STAT4xx 3
MATH/AMSC/STAT xxx 3-4

Upper Level Computer Science Courses
Select five 400 level courses from at least three of the following areas with no more than three courses in a given area: 15

Area 1: Systems
CMSC411 Computer Systems Architecture
CMSC412 Operating Systems
CMSC414 Computer and Network Security
CMSC417 Computer Networks

Area 2: Information Processing
CMSC420 Advanced Data Structures
CMSC421 Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
CMSC422 Introduction to Machine Learning
CMSC423 Bioinformatic Algorithms, Databases, and Tools
CMSC424 Database Design
CMSC426 Computer Vision
CMSC427 Computer Graphics
CMSC470 Introduction to Natural Language Processing

Area 3: Software Engineering and Programming Languages
CMSC430 Introduction to Compilers
CMSC433 Programming Language Technologies and Paradigms
CMSC434 Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction
CMSC435 Software Engineering
CMSC436 Programming Handheld Systems

Area 4: Theory
CMSC451 Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms
CMSC452 Elementary Theory of Computation
CMSC456 Cryptography
CMSC457 Introduction to Quantum Computing

Area 5: Numerical Analysis
CMSC460 Computational Methods
CMSC465 Introduction to Numerical Analysis I
or CMSC466 Introduction to Numerical Analysis I

Upper Level Concentration Requirement
Select at least 12 credits of 300-400 level courses from one discipline outside of CMSC 12

Total Credits 63-64

Students also have the option to complete the Cybersecurity Specialization (p. 2), Data Science Specialization (p. 2), or Machine Learning Specialization 1

1 Students may fulfill CMSC131, CMSC132, CMSC216 or CMSC250 course requirements by passing proficiency exams before they start the sequence of classes.
This course must have prerequisite of MATH141 or higher; cannot be cross-listed with CMSC.

At the upper level, students take five (5) 400 level courses from at least three different areas with no more than three courses in a given area. An additional two (2) electives, totaling 6 credits, for the general computer science degree are also required. If students take more than three courses from an area, they will be counted as electives. Students can count one credit winter courses towards the elective requirement, as well as independent research or study with a faculty member, and other courses at the 300 or 400 level.

Credit will only be given for CMSC460 or CMSC466.

Students must also take at least 12 credits of 300-400 level courses from one discipline outside of CMSC. No course in or cross-listed with CMSC can be counted. An overall 2.0 average must be earned in these courses. Each course must be a minimum of 3 credits. Only 1 special topics or independent study course may be used.

Cybersecurity Specialization

Students looking to pursue the cybersecurity specialization are required to complete the lower level courses (MATH140, MATH141, CMSC131, CMSC132, CMSC216, CMSC250), the additional required courses (CMSC330, CMSC351, MATH/STATXXX and STAT4xx beyond MATH141), and the upper level concentration requirements as detailed above. The difference in the specialization is the upper level computer science courses. Students must fulfill their computer science upper level course requirements from at least 3 areas.

Students are required to take:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC414</td>
<td>Computer and Network Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC456</td>
<td>Cryptography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must choose four courses from:

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<tr>
<td>CMSC411</td>
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<td>CMSC412</td>
<td>Operating Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC417</td>
<td>Computer Networks</td>
</tr>
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<td>CMSC430</td>
<td>Introduction to Compilers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC433</td>
<td>Programming Language Technologies and Paradigms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC451</td>
<td>Design and Analysis of Computer Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC4XX</td>
<td>Upper Level Elective Courses: three credits from CMSC3XX or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC4XX</td>
<td>excluding CMSC330 and CMSC351</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 21-22

1 Courses that fall within each area are listed in the General Track degree requirements. The five areas are: Area 1: Systems, Area 2: Information Processing, Area 3: Software Engineering and Programming Languages, Area 4: Theory, and Area 5: Numerical Analysis.

Data Science Specialization

Students looking to pursue the data science specialization are required to complete the lower level courses (MATH140, MATH141, CMSC131, CMSC132, CMSC216, CMSC250), the additional required courses (CMSC330, CMSC351, STAT400 and MATH240), and the upper level concentration requirements as detailed above. The difference in the specialization is the upper level computer science courses. Students must fulfill their computer science upper level course requirements from at least 3 areas.

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<tr>
<td>CMSC320</td>
<td>Introduction to Data Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC421</td>
<td>Introduction to Artificial Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>CMSC422</td>
<td>Introduction to Machine Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Bioinformatic Algorithms and Methods for Functional Genomics and Proteomics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC420</td>
<td>Advanced Data Structures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC421</td>
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</tr>
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<td>CMSC423</td>
<td>Bioinformatic Algorithms, Databases, and Tools</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMSC425</td>
<td>Game Programming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC426</td>
<td>Computer Vision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC427</td>
<td>Computer Graphics</td>
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</tr>
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<td>CMSC470</td>
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Total Credits 21-22

1 Students may fulfill an area requirement under the Upper Level Elective Courses requirement. Courses that fall within each area are listed in the General Track degree requirements. The five areas are: Area 1: Systems, Area 2: Information Processing, Area 3: Software Engineering and Programming Languages, Area 4: Theory, and Area 5: Numerical Analysis.

Machine Learning Specialization

Students looking to pursue the machine learning specialization are required to complete the lower level courses (MATH140, MATH141, CMSC131, CMSC132, CMSC216, CMSC250), the additional required courses (CMSC330, CMSC351, STAT4xx beyond MATH141, and MATH240), and the upper level concentration requirements as detailed above. The difference in the specialization is the upper level computer science courses. Students must fulfill their computer science upper level course requirements from at least 3 areas.

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Total Credits 21-22

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CMSC426  Computer Vision
CMSC/AMSC460  Computational Methods
          or CMSC/AMSC466  Introduction to Numerical Analysis I
          or MATH401  Applications of Linear Algebra
CMSC470  Introduction to Natural Language Processing
CMSC474  Introduction to Computational Game Theory
CMSC498  Selected Topics in Computer Science (CMSC498F: Robotics and Perception)
CMSC498  Selected Topics in Computer Science (CMSC498L: Introduction to Deep Learning)
CMSC498  Selected Topics in Computer Science (CMSC498P: Machine Learning Capstone)

Upper Level Elective Courses: six credits from CMSC3XX or CMSC4XX excluding CMSC330 and CMSC351 ¹ 6

Total Credits  21

¹ Students may fulfill an area requirement under the Upper Level Elective Courses requirement. Courses that fall within each area are listed in the General Track degree requirements. The five areas are: Area 1: Systems, Area 2: Information Processing, Area 3: Software Engineering and Programming Languages, Area 4: Theory, and Area 5: Numerical Analysis.

Four Year Plan

Click here (https://cmns.umd.edu/undergraduate/advising-academic-planning/academic-planning/four-year-plans/four-year-plans-gened/) for roadmaps for four-year plans in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences.

Additional information on developing a four-year academic plan can be found on the following pages:

• 4yearplans.umd.edu (http://4yearplans.umd.edu/)
• the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/) section of this catalog