Introduction to the Major

Our computer science program provides a rigorous education in computing and problem-solving within a supportive liberal-arts community.

As a Computer Science major, you will learn and practice fundamental skills and principles both in and outside the classroom emerging fully equipped to thrive in a dynamic and rapidly changing world. Our students distinguish themselves by exceptional research acumen, prowess in programming competitions and hackathons, and the ability to work collaboratively in a team. Our non-competitive, supportive milieu with small class sizes facilitates a personalized approach to teaching and learning.

CORE COURSES

Take courses encompassing theoretical and applied computer science and be primed to pursue an advanced degree or a career in industry or research. As you develop your analytical aptitude, you will tackle more intricate challenges. Our program adheres closely to the Association for Computing Machinery/IEEE guidelines. The core courses include:

- CSCI 140 - Assembly Language and Computer Organization
- CSCI 160 - Algorithms
- CSCI 170 - Analysis of Programming Languages
- CSCI 180 - Automata Theory

HIGHLIGHTS

Study with internationally known researchers who are also dedicated teachers.

Compete in prestigious computer science competitions.

Dive into original research as early as your first year.

Take classes at Worcester Polytechnic Institute through the Higher Education Consortium of Central Massachusetts.

"I saw computer science as an important tool to have in a generation where everything is digitized. Coding has also encouraged a new spectrum of creative thinking and problem solving..."

— TIFFANY KAYO '19

97%

Placement into jobs and graduate schools

COMPUTER SCIENCE *Bachelor of Arts*

CLARK UNIVERSITY

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY >

- **Explore and navigate Clark curriculum**
- **Connect and engage with communities**
- **Discover and pursue your passions**
- **Develop professional skills**
- **Reflect, design and plan**

YEAR 1

Explore the Department of Computer Science

Take introductory level courses and get to know our faculty. Think about enrolling in requisite math courses.

Identify potential PLS (Program of Liberal Studies) courses with the support of an advisor

How can these courses support your general interests and your educational goals?

Learn about campus resources

Make ClarkYOU your default homepage and explore student resources related to academics, campus life, and health and wellness.

Expand your interests

Participate in events hosted by the Clark Center for Technology, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (TIE) and other clubs, including coding challenges, resume workshops, and recruiter meet-and-greets.

Get connected

Join ClarkCONNECT and reach out to Clark alumni to discuss career options and learn about their career paths.

Explore resources off campus

Participate in hackathons and meet computer science students from other schools.

Consider a research project or internship

Meet with a faculty member to discuss research options during the summer. Reach out to local small businesses to see if there are ways that you can apply your skills and give back to the community.

Reflect on what sparks your interest

Do you enjoy solving problems using data, managing computer systems, or something else?

YEAR 2

Dig in and define your interests

Learn and compare programming languages, explore computer architecture, and dive into automata theory.

Declare your major

Identify faculty members who share your interests and consider asking one to become your adviser. Consider a complementary major such as mathematics and data science.

Craft a professional resume

Visit the Career Lab in ASEC for help. Upload your resume to Handshake for review and feedback.

Stay connected

Attend a career fair during fall or spring to discover new organizations and the types of roles they are hiring for. Reach out to the Career Connections Center (CCC) to learn about the resources available to you.

Use your resources

Make use of ClarkTechApply, a web application founded by a Clark alum, to explore new internship opportunities that best align with your work interests. Work in the department's computer labs or Clark's Office of Information Technology Services.

Pursue another point of view

Get to know your STEM classmates and people that share similar interests. Explore courses that excite you!

Stretch yourself

Get involved with the Department of Computer Science as a teaching or research assistant. Pick up a project or learn a new skill! Build your own personal website to showcase your skillset and projects.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

JOBS & EMPLOYERS

Our alumni work as software engineers, systems and IT staff, research scientists, and program managers, with some holding positions at Google, Microsoft, and Amazon.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Alumni pursue graduate study in computer science, business and management, law, medicine, and education at top schools across the country.

YEAR 3

☐ **Dive deeper**

Enroll in electives that align with your interests - take courses in artificial intelligence, the internet of things, web and app development, operating systems, and more.

☐ **Engage and refresh your networks — on and off campus**

Meet with recruiters at career fairs and talk about your past projects and areas of interest. Network on LinkedIn and HandShake.

☐ **Explore resources outside of Clark**

Go to talks and lectures off-campus, participate in hackathons and put your projects up on GitHub. Attend the Grace Hopper Conference (for female-identifying students) or the Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference to enrich your learning and connect with recruiters.

☐ **Go beyond the classroom**

Join Clark clubs that match your interests and apply for an e-board position to get engaged. Design an independent project and seek support through the Steinbrecher Fellowship and other resources.

☐ **Get ready for next year**

Recognize the progress you have made! Plan for your capstone. Meet with your adviser and the CCC to talk about your plans for senior year and beyond.

☐ **Look back and ahead**

Reflect on how you have grown and changed. What are the next steps on your path? What are the skills you hope to develop before graduation and the experiences you want to have?

YEAR 4

☐ **Pull it together with your capstone**

Fulfill the capstone requirement through an Honor's thesis, an interdisciplinary project, a directed study, or select advanced CS courses.

☐ **Finish strong**

What steps do you need to take this year to finish strong? Continue tracking and meeting important personal and academic deadlines. Be sure to complete all your PLS courses and other requirements.

☐ **No regrets!**

What's on your Clark undergraduate bucket list? Take time for things you're enthusiastic and passionate about.

☐ **Share what you have learned**

Present your research at ClarkFEST. Come out to support fellow classmates and see what they've been up to!

☐ **What's next?**

Talk with faculty, your adviser, and the CCC about your upcoming job search or grad school applications. Identify faculty who know you well and will serve as references and/or write letters of recommendation.

☐ **Consider your well-being**

Reflect on your pacing and self-care: Are you avoiding burnout? Do you have balance?

☐ **You did it!**

What have you learned that you value? How will you embrace this learning in your life beyond Clark? Celebrate your accomplishments!

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR!

The computer science major is designed to help you learn outside the classroom.

Many students take advantage of internship opportunities during the academic year or over the summer, fostering the junction between their education and career advancement. As you amass proficiency, you will be encouraged to employ and impart your knowledge and use your creative problem-solving skills to better our world. You could devise a program that addresses a need on campus, or in the community or facilitates in the pursuit for research. Some computer science majors volunteer to tutor students in local schools.

CONNECT WITH US!

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clarku.edu/departments/computer-science
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Advising

We are here to help you through your Clark career and beyond.

Advisers help plan a coherent sequence of courses and make timely decisions about study abroad and advanced research opportunities, including enrollment in the Honors Program. Email: CSAdvising@clarku.edu

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Change Our World.

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