COMPUTER SCIENCE

http://cs.illinois.edu

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Major: Computer Science
Degrees Offered: M.C.S., M.S., Ph.D.

Major: Bioinformatics
Degrees Offered: M.S.

Graduate Concentration: Computer Science

Degrees Offered: M.C.S. in Computer Science

Joint Degree Programs: the M.C.S. in Computer Science can be earned jointly with the following
Degrees Offered:
M.Arch. in Architecture
J.D. in Law

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Computer Science is one of the longest established computer science departments in the world and is consistently ranked as a top-5 graduate program. The department offers graduate work leading to a master’s or doctoral degree, with an interdisciplinary master’s degree program in bioinformatics. In addition, the department offers an online professional master’s degree to reach students who are working full-time and unable to come to campus.

Admission

Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree equivalent to that granted by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The recommended background for students entering a Computer Science graduate degree program is a bachelor’s or a master’s degree (only if applying to the PhD program) in computer science or computer engineering. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) (http://www.ets.org) general aptitude tests (Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical) are no longer required. However, in some cases, GRE general scores may provide helpful supporting information.

Applicants to the computer science Ph.D. program must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.40 (A = 4.00) in their undergraduate studies (international GPAs are systematically converted) to be considered. The department reserves the right to admit applicants with lower GPAs under rare and exceptional circumstances. MS and MCS applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.20. If an applicant also holds a graduate degree, the minimum GPA for that degree must be 3.00. Full details of the programs offered by Computer Science, admissibility, application procedures, and deadlines can be found at the department’s Prospective Graduate Student Information Web site (http://cs.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate). To apply, click here (http://www.grad.uiuc.edu/admissions/apply).

All applicants whose native language is not English must submit a minimum TOEFL (http://www.toefl.org) score of 79 (IBT), 213 (CBT), or minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) (http://www.ielts.org) academic exam scores of 6.5 overall and 6.0 in all subsections. For those taking the TOEFL or IELTS, full admission status (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c) is granted for scores greater than 102 (TOEFL iBT), 253 (TOEFL CBT) or 7.0 (IELTS). Limited status (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c) is granted for lesser scores and requires enrollment in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses (http://linguistics.illinois.edu/students/esl/guidelines) based on an ESL Placement Test (EPT) taken upon arrival to campus. Applicants for the online Master of Computer Science program will be considered for full admission status only.

Faculty Research Interests

Illinois has been an international leader in computing research for almost five decades. Broadly organized around 10 research areas (http://cs.illinois.edu/research), 70 faculty members (http://cs.illinois.edu/people/faculty) conduct research with over 450 graduate students, and about 30 research staff members. They regularly collaborate with researchers across campus, in other departments or research units.

Facilities and Resources

The home of the Department of Computer Science at Illinois is the Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science (http://cs.illinois.edu/about-us), a state-of-the-art building that opened its doors in 2004. On the north side of campus, home to the College of Engineering (http://engineering.illinois.edu), Siebel Center is an interactive computing habitat, made possible by a gift from alumnus Tom Siebel. The vision for the building was not only to create a magnificent space to work in, but to offer opportunities to investigate and apply computing tools on the building itself. Advanced wireless and wired communication networks, sensors, actuators, video capture and display equipment, video walls and information panels and storage and computing capabilities within the building allow researchers to examine communication and computation issues related to pervasive computing, multimedia infrastructure, building intelligence, security and privacy, and art.

Financial Aid

Fellowships, research assistantships, and teaching assistantships (all of which include tuition and partial fee waivers) are awarded on a competitive basis. All applicants, regardless of U.S. citizenship, whose native language is not English and who wish to be considered for teaching assistantships (one of the most common forms of financial aid for new graduate students in the department) must demonstrate spoken English language proficiency (http://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/taengprof.htm) by achieving a minimum score of 24 on the speaking subsection of the TOEFL iBT or 8 on the speaking subsection of the IELTS. Students who are unable to take the iBT or IELTS are required to receive a minimum score of 5 on the EPI test (http://cte.illinois.edu/testing/oral_eng/epi_overview.html), offered on campus. All new teaching assistants are required to participate in the Graduate Academy for College Teaching (http://cte.illinois.edu/programs/ta_train.html) conducted prior to the start of the semester.

- Master of Science in Computer Science (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/computer-science/ms-comp-science)
• Master of Science in Bioinformatics, Computer Science Concentration (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/computer-science/ms-bioinformatics)

• Master of Computer Science in Computer Science (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/computer-science/master-sci-comp-sci)

Computer Science, PhD (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/computer-science-phd)

Computer Science Joint Degrees (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/engineering/computer-science-joint-degrees)

Master of Computer Science - Online (http://catalog.illinois.edu/graduate/graduate-majors/computer-science/master-sci-comp-sci)