



Computer Science

2020-2021 HANDBOOK



PennState
College of Engineering

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
AND COMPUTER SCIENCE**

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Welcome

This handbook has been prepared for your use as a guide for your studies and as a means of providing you with much of the information that you may need as you continue to work towards your degree. We hope that you read it carefully, and we invite your inquiries about any of the questions or issues that are related to your program. The Academic Affairs staff in W209 Westgate is here to serve you.

Please watch for announcements of special courses, news related to scheduling or textbooks, and other special opportunities delivered via a departmental email list.

Again, welcome to Computer Science and Engineering. We wish you well in your studies and offer our services to assist you.

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The Computer Science Major

The Department of Computer Science and Engineering was created in 1993 with the merger of the Computer Engineering Program and the Computer Science Department. The department offers B.S. degrees in computer science (CMPSC) and computer engineering (CMPEN) through the College of Engineering. It also offers the Computational Option of the inter-college Data Sciences B.S. degree.

Computer Science is the study of computation, including its principles and foundations, its efficient implementation, its analysis, and its practical use in a wide range of different application areas. Computer Science is far more than just programming and no other science or engineering discipline has had a greater impact in such diverse areas as commerce, communication, entertainment, finance, medicine, the social sciences, the physical sciences and the life sciences. Computer Science impacts our daily lives in so many ways and computer scientists are the ones who make this happen. Computer scientists transform the way we look at and live in the world.

The mission of our undergraduate program is to prepare our students for a wide range of careers as computer scientists, software engineers, software developers, and related positions in the field of computing. Our curriculum covers fundamental programming techniques and skills, broad knowledge of computer hardware, operating systems and programming languages, mathematical foundations of computing, and advanced topics in software design and application development. This curriculum provides students with the skills needed to design, develop, evaluate and analyze software solutions to a wide spectrum of computational problems and prepares them to be leaders in the rapidly changing field of computing throughout their careers. This program is intended to produce computer science professionals and not merely technicians with some training in computer programming. Success requires a strong aptitude in mathematics.

Because of the close relationship to computer science, concurrent majors in computer science and computer engineering or computer science and data sciences are not permitted.

Program Objectives

Within a few years after graduation, graduates in computer engineering should be able to:

1. Apply appropriate theory, practices, and tools to the specification, design, implementation, maintenance, and evaluation of both large and small software systems.
2. Work and communicate effectively on multi-disciplinary teams.
3. Engage in continuous professional development through work assignments, graduate school study, professional training programs and independent learning.

During the first two years, students heading towards the computer science major take many courses in common with other engineering majors, including courses in mathematics and physics. In addition, students take several specialized courses in the major, such as programming

fundamentals and an introduction to digital systems. From these courses, students gain experience constructing software, working in a hardware laboratory, and completing individual and group projects. During the second two years, students complete a series of courses in computation theory, computer systems, and software systems. Students also select from numerous electives. Throughout the four years, students develop communication skills, including a senior year course in which students examine the complete design process and participate in a series of oral and written experiences similar to those that would be seen in industry.

Student Outcomes

The following Student Outcomes summarize the skills acquired through the computer science degree program:

1. Analyze a complex computing problem and apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.
2. Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.
3. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.
4. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.
5. Function effectively as a member or leader of a team engaged in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.
6. Apply computer science theory and software development fundamentals to produce computing-based solutions.

Advising and Procedures for Major

If you are a first- or second-year student at University Park who is intending to major in computer science, you can meet with an adviser at the **Engineering Advising Center (EAC)**, 208 Hammond Building, 863-1033. This office is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Walk-in advising is available, but appointments are encouraged).

If you are a junior or senior who has been admitted into the computer science major, you can find your assigned adviser's name and email address in LionPATH. Schreyer Scholars will be assigned a Scholar's Adviser. **If you communicate via e-mail, always use your Penn State account**, not another account such as Gmail. For non-advising issues (questions about degree audit, scheduling, etc.) see one of the CSE staff in W209 Westgate during regular business hours.

Required courses for the computer science major and a suggested schedule are given on the following pages. Information about all majors at Penn State is listed in the **Bulletin of Baccalaureate Degree Programs** at <https://bulletins.psu.edu>. The *Bulletin* is updated yearly and should be used along with this Handbook. Clarifications to the *Bulletin* are noted here.

The final responsibility for selecting courses and meeting degree requirements is yours. The role of your adviser is to suggest, recommend, and remind you of the requirements of the major and rules of the University. Two helpful references for University procedures on-line are: **University Faculty Senate Policies for Students** at <https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/> and the **Code of Conduct** at <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/support-safety-conduct/student-conduct/code-conduct>.

When meeting with your adviser, always take a copy of your recent degree audit, transcript, your present schedule, and your plan for at least the next semester's courses.

Do not rely on LionPATH to correctly categorize your courses. LionPATH only understands the degree requirements as specified in the Bulletin and will therefore occasionally place courses into an inappropriate category. This handbook contains additional restrictions and explanations. To ensure that you meet degree requirements you must have your degree audit reviewed by your adviser periodically. You should submit petitions to correct any mis-categorization by LionPATH. Failure to do so may result in delaying your graduation until degree requirements are met.

Because computer science is such a rapidly changing field, adjustments in course content and/or course offerings should be expected. It will be to your advantage to keep abreast of new course offerings, current course enhancements, and allowable course substitutions through regular contact with your adviser and the department office.

Entrance to the Major (ETM), Concurrent majors, Change of major

For the entrance-to-major requirements, see the "How to Get in" section of the Computer Science major page in the University Bulletin for the year that you began at Penn State: <https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/>

Due to over enrollment, the computer science and computer engineering majors are controlled majors. This means for entrance to the major you must successfully complete the required ETM courses **AND** you must have the needed minimum cumulative GPA for your ETM year when you are in the ETM credit window specified in the Bulletin. Because of this, the CSE Department will not approve requests for transfers from other Colleges and Universities, requests for Change of Major after a student has been admitted to a major, requests for computer engineering or science as a second (or later) concurrent major, nor for either major as a sequential major.

If you discover an interest in other areas of study or you are not admitted into computer science, you should explore other possible majors and alternatives at the **Engineering Advising Center** or at online at the **Academic Advising Portal**.

Concurrent majors will not be allowed in computer science and computer engineering or computer science and data sciences, although it is possible to obtain a concurrent major with another non-enrollment-controlled program. (Also see page 3 "Enrollment Controls").

Degree Audits

You are responsible for periodically checking your *Degree Audit* on LionPATH to verify that the courses you have taken and plan to take will satisfy your degree requirements and that you are on track to complete your degree when you expect to complete it. You are encouraged to meet with an advisor to review your degree audit to verify this information. **Do not rely on LionPATH to place your courses into their appropriate categories.**

Registration

When it is time to register for the next semester's courses, refer to this handbook and consult with your adviser to determine an appropriate set of courses. Then go to LionPATH and use its Schedule Builder to construct your schedule. You should register as early as possible – **courses fill up quickly!**

Re-ordering your course schedule from the “sample schedule” will not necessarily delay graduation. The key to completing 127 credits over 4 years is to average approximately 16 credits per semester. Though many students do maintain this pace, it is not unusual for students to take lighter loads some semesters and to delay graduation. Needed credits may be taken during the summer (not necessarily at University Park). Some students may elect to register for a 9th semester to complete their degree requirements. Some electives are not offered every semester, so please be careful in your scheduling. This is especially true for co-op students.

Prerequisite Courses

If a CMPEN or CMPSC course has prerequisites, you must complete the prerequisite course before taking the successor course. For most courses an appropriate grade is a grade of D or higher. If the prerequisite course is a “Prescribed C or better” course and you receive a grade of D, then you may register for the next course but you still must retake the prerequisite course. Waiving of prerequisites is rarely approved and requires approval by both the course instructor and the associate department head. **If you schedule a course for which you have not satisfied the prerequisites, you will be removed from the course near the start of the semester.**

Schedule Changes

Schedule adjustments (course adds/drops) may be made online using LionPATH during the first 6-7 calendar days of each semester. Detailed instructions, costs, and deadlines are provided by the University Registrar's Registration Information at http://www.registrar.psu.edu/registration/registration_index.cfm.

After this time, you may still adjust your schedule, but any change is considered a late add or a late drop. REMEMBER: A student who has not yet been admitted to the major should seek advice at the Engineering Advising Center; a student who has been admitted should see their assigned adviser. Excessive dropping of courses may affect your eligibility for federal financial aid.

General Education

All Baccalaureate students at the University are required to complete 45 credits of General Education. You will partially meet these requirements by taking prescribed courses required for the major, and by selecting additional courses that fulfill the remaining requirements. Details can be found in the Baccalaureate Degree General Education Requirements at

<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general-education-program/>.

Note: Some campuses do not have a first-year seminar requirement, but instead require participation in a first-year experience. If you started at such a campus, you will need to take 1 additional credit of department list course work.

Writing Requirement

All Penn State students have a Writing Across the Curriculum graduation requirement. You must complete at least 3 credits of writing-intensive courses selected from “W” courses offered within the major or college of enrollment. Courses in the computer science major that fulfill this requirement are CMPSC 483W (Software Design Methods) and CMPSC 431W (Introduction to Database Management Systems).

Graduation Requirements

To graduate from the University, every student must:

- (1) Complete the course requirements for his or her major (including earning Cs or higher in all C-required courses) and
- (2) Earn at least a 2.0 cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University

Credit Acquisition

In addition to taking courses at any Penn State campus, you may be able to earn credit through Independent Learning (World Campus) or by transferring credits from another school. Before taking a course at another university, check with the Admissions office and your adviser to be sure the course will transfer usefully. **Note that CMPSC 473, CMPSC 461, CMPSC 464, CMPSC 465 and the writing courses (CMPSC 431W or CMPSC 483W) must be taken at Penn State.**

Cooperative Education Program

The cooperative education program provides work experience by alternating periods of academic study and full-time employment in industry or government. The program typically starts at the beginning of the junior year and consists of three rotations, providing a cumulative work experience of one year. If you have interest in the co-op program, you should obtain advising no later than your fourth semester from the designated co-op adviser, who will help you plan work and study schedules. You may earn up to 3 credits toward graduation in the Department List requirements. If you prefer less of a time commitment, you can pursue one or more summer internships. You earn 1 credit per internship (maximum of 2 credits total) toward graduation in the Department List requirements. If you are not a formal co-op or internship student, you may still take related summer jobs; however, you may not claim credits for jobs you arrange outside of the formal programs.

Honors Program

Students in the Schreyer Honors College (Atherton Hall, 863-2635) may earn honors in computer science by completing a thesis with a member of the CSE faculty. See an honors adviser if you are

interested in finding out more. (The department office, W209 Westgate Building, can identify the honors advisers for you).

Minors

A minor is a specialization of at least 18 credits that supplements a major. Some courses may concurrently meet the requirements of our major. Popular minors for students in our department include:

- 1) Engineering Leadership Development
- 2) Engineering Entrepreneurship
- 3) Mathematics
- 4) Statistics

Other Issues

For additional information on minors, withdrawal, leaves of absence, concurrent majors, change of major, satisfactory/unsatisfactory credits, and other academic issues, refer to University Faculty Senate Policies for Students at

<https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/>.

Waivers and Exceptions

All exceptions to the degree requirements must be approved and documented using Penn State's Course Substitution Request at <https://coursesub.psu.edu/>. Be sure to submit course substitution petitions prior to taking courses and prior to the semester in which you plan to graduate.

Inquiries about exceptions and general degree requirements should be taken to the Department of Computer Science and Engineering Office (W209 Westgate Building), to your adviser, or to the Engineering Advising Center. Note that petitions that require College level approval (exceptions/waivers to College & University requirements) will NOT be accepted during the semester in which you plan to graduate.

Academic Integrity

Recognizing not only the value of integrity in the academic environment, but also its value for the practicing computer scientist and for society at large, we in the department urge you to act as a responsible professional while you are a student. Academic integrity is defined as follows in Faculty Senate rule 49-20:

“Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity free from fraud and deception and is an educational objective of this institution. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating of information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students.”

The EECS School maintains a specific Academic Integrity Statement at

<https://www.eecs.psu.edu/students/resources/EECS-CSE-Academic-Integrity.aspx>

related to programming courses.

It is commonly accepted that people learn better if they can interact, discuss, and assist each other in solving problems and understanding concepts. Yet persons submitting identical homework papers overstep the bounds of beneficial interaction. The specific limits of acceptable collaboration will be spelled out by the instructor in each course in the course syllabus. The specifics may vary from course to course., but you are always responsible for keeping your work private and inaccessible to others. Do not, for any reason, show another student a part of your code or write code for another student. Do not put your code online in any location that might be publicly accessible. Any collaboration that exceeds these guidelines or the instructor's guidelines will be considered cheating. Clearly, professionals share ideas, but they should not use another's work without clear acknowledgement of who did the work. Academic dishonesty in any form is not condoned or tolerated.

Computer Science Topics

Students achieve breadth in computer science through a series of required courses. Background in software related areas is gained through CMPSC 121 or 131, CMPSC 122 or 132, CMPSC 221, CMPSC 311, CMPSC 465, CMPSC 461, and CMPSC 473. Background in theory is gained through CMPSC 360, CMPSC 465, and CMPSC 464. Background in hardware areas is gained through CMPEN 270 and CMPEN 331. It is recommended that you take one programming course a semester (CMPSC 121 or 131, 122 or 132, 221, 311, 473) until CMPSC 473 is complete (if possible). Although it is recommended that you take CMPSC 121 or 131 in your first semester, your graduation will not be delayed if you take it in the second semester.

Specialization is obtained by the students' selection of technical electives. Students must select 12 credits of technical electives (6 credits from CMPSC 442, CMPSC 443, CMPSC 447, CMPSC 448, CMPSC 450, CMPSC 451, CMPSC 455, CMPSC 456, CMPSC 458, CMPSC 467, CMPSC 468, CMPSC 471, CMPSC 475, CMPEN 362, CMPEN 454, CMPEN 462, and EE 456; select 3 credits from any 400-489 CMPSC/CMPEN course; and select 3 credits from CMPSC 483W or CMPSC 431W). **Note that none of CMPSC 494H, CMPSC 496, CMPEN 494H, or CMPEN 496 may be used as a technical elective. A CMPSC 497 or CMPEN 497 course may be allowed as a technical elective, but a petition requesting this should be filed before taking the course.**

Issues related to the integration of hardware and software, and hardware-software tradeoffs are discussed in the required courses CMPSC 311, CMPEN 331, and CMPSC 473, as well as some elective courses such as CMPEN 472 and CMPEN 473.

Students receive an appropriate introduction to various specialized mathematics topics in a sequence of required courses that include: CMPSC 360, STAT 318, STAT 319, and MATH 220. A variety of methods for modeling computer processes and systems are introduced in the required courses CMPSC 465, CMPEN 331, and CMPSC 473.

Students can learn to use a number of computer-aided design tools through certain laboratory courses and in regular lecture courses. These include a digital schematic capture and simulation tool in CMPEN 270; a hardware design language in CMPEN 331; a hardware description language simulator in CMPEN 431; and computer vision software tools in CMPEN/EE 454.

All students study multiple high-level programming languages such as Python, Java, C, and C++. Students study assembly language in CMPEN 331. In CMPSC 461, students study general language principles and explore various programming paradigms. Students gain extensive experience in both Microsoft and UNIX operating systems.

Program Requirement Summary Chart – On the next pages, you will find a semester-by-semester chart of what courses to take with notes describing any choices to be made or restrictions to be followed. Please realize that although all the courses listed are required for the degree, they need not be taken during the semesters shown in the charts. In particular, CMPSC 360 and CMPSC 465 should be taken one or two semesters earlier if you wish to improve your chances for highly competitive internships with companies such as Google.

You should be sure to check course prerequisites before you deviate from the suggested schedule. **Care should be exercised to be sure core courses are taken in the proper sequence and in a timeframe allowing you to meet entrance to major requirements.** You should not wait until your last semester to take C required courses. For students entering the program prior to 2018, 126 credits are required for graduation. For 2018 and later, 127 credits are required.

Sample Schedule of Courses by Semester

SEMESTER 1	Credits	SEMESTER 2	Credits
CMPSC 121*‡# or 131*‡#	3	CMPSC 122*# or 132*#	3
MATH 140 (Calculus I) *‡#†	4	MATH 141 (Calculus II) *‡#†	4
ENGL 15 GWS (Rhetoric & Comp.)‡	3	PHYS 211 (Mechanics) *#†	4
GA, GH, or GS course	3	GA, GH, or GS course	3
GA, GH, or GS course	3	First Year Seminar	1

SEMESTER 3	Credits	SEMESTER 4	Credits
CMPSC 221 (Java with Web)*	3	CMPSC 360 (Discrete Math)*	3
MATH 230 (Calculus III)	4	COMPEN 270 (Digital Systems)*	4
MATH 220 (Matrices)	2	CMPSC 311 (Sys. Programming)*	3
PHYS 212 (Electricity & Magnetism) *†	4	ENGL 202C GWS (Tech. Writing) ††	3
CAS 100 A/B (Effective Speech) ††	3	GA, GH, or GS course	3

SEMESTER 5	Credits	SEMESTER 6	Credits
CMPSC 465 (Data Struct. & Alg.)*	3	CMPSC 464 (Theory of Computing)	3
COMPEN 331 (Computer Org.)*	3	CMPSC 473 (Operating Systems)*	3
STAT 318 (Elementary Probability)	3	STAT 319 (Applied Statistics)	3
CMPSC 461 (Prog. Lang. Concepts)*	3	Foreign Language	4
GA, GH, or GS course	3	GA, GH, or GS course	3

SEMESTER 7	Credits	SEMESTER 8	Credits
CMPSC 483W or CMPSC 431W	3	CMPSC/COMPEN 400-level**	3
CMPSC Elective from list	3	CMPSC Elective from list	3
Supporting Course	3	Supporting Course	3
Department List (General Elective)	3	Natural Science (GN)	2-3
Department List (General Elective)	4	Department List (General Elective)	3
Health & Wellness (GHW)	1.5	Health & Wellness (GHW)	1.5

* Course requires a grade of C or better for the major

‡ Course requires a grade of C or better for General Education

Course is an Entrance to Major requirement

† Course satisfies General Education and degree requirement

** Select 3 credits from any 400-level CMPSC/CMPEN course (may not duplicate material already taken or required). No CMPSC/CMPEN 494H or CMPSC/CMPEN 496 may be substituted. CMPSC/CMPEN 497 must be petitioned prior to taking the course.

Graduation Requirements

Many of the courses below have prerequisites; some prerequisites are shown in parentheses; others are given in the Bulletin.

Computer Science and Engineering (34 credits)

- CMPEN 270 (4) – Introduction to Digital Systems (Concurrent: PHYS 212) (Students in the Spring 2019 and earlier pools need only CMPEN 271 which contains the same lecture material but no lab.)
- CMPEN 331 (3) – Computer Organization and Design (CMPEN 271 or CMPEN 270; CMPSC 121 or CMPSC 131 or CMPSC 201)
- CMPSC 121 GQ (3) – Introduction to Programming Techniques (MATH 110 or MATH 140 concurrently or as a prerequisite) OR
CMPSC 131 (3) – Programming and Computation I Fundamentals (MATH 110 or MATH 140 concurrently or as a prerequisite)
- CMPSC 122 (3) – Intermediate Programming (CMPSC 121 or CMPSC 131) OR
CMPSC 132 (3) - Programming and Computation II Data Structures (CMPSC 121 or CMPSC 131)
- CMPSC 221 (3) – Object Oriented Programming with Web-Based Applications (CMPSC 122 or CMPSC 132)
- CMPSC 311 (3) – Systems Programming (CMPSC 221)
- CMPSC 360 (3) – Discrete Mathematics for Computer Science (Concurrent: CMPSC 122 or CMPSC 132)
- CMPSC 461[†] (3) – Programming Language Concepts (CMPSC 221, CMPSC 360)
- CMPSC 464[†] (3) – Introduction to the Theory of Computation (CMPSC 465)
- CMPSC 465[†] (3) – Data Structures and Algorithms (CMPSC 360 or MATH 311W)
- CMPSC 473[†] (3) – Operating Systems (CMPSC 311, CMPEN 331)

[†]Neither transfer credits nor study abroad credits may substitute.

Computer Science Electives (12 credits)

Select 3 credits from any 400-level CMPSC or CMPEN course, **excluding 494, 496, 497 and courses offered at non-UP locations which cover duplicate material.**

Select 6 credits from the following list (prerequisites appear in parentheses).

- CMPSC 442 (3) – Artificial Intelligence (CMPSC 221 or equivalent. Concurrent: CMPSC 465)
- CMPSC 443 (3) – Introduction to Computer and Network Security (CMPSC 473; CMPEN 362)
- CMPSC 447 (3) – Software Security (CMPSC 443)
- CMPSC 448 (3) – Machine Learning (STAT 318, STAT 319, MATH 230, MATH 220)
- CMPSC 450 (3) – Concurrent Scientific Programming (CMPSC 121, CMPSC 201 or CMPSC 202; MATH 220; MATH 230 or MATH 231)
- CMPSC 451 (3) – Numerical Computations (3 credits of programming; MATH 230 or MATH 231)
- CMPSC 455 (3) – Introduction to Numerical Analysis I (MATH 220; MATH 230 or MATH 231; and 3 credits of programming)
- CMPSC 456 (3) – Introduction to Numerical Analysis II (CMPSC 455)
- CMPSC 458 (3) – Fundamentals of Computer Graphics (CMPSC 311; MATH 220; MATH 230 or MATH 231)
- CMPSC 467 (3) – Factorization and Primality Testing (CMPSC 360 or MATH 311W)
- CMPSC 471 (3) – Introduction to Compiler Construction (CMPSC 461)
- CMPSC 475 (3) – Applications Programming (CMPSC 221 or CMPSC 425; CMPSC 311 or CMPSC 312; CMPSC 462 or CMPSC 465)
- CMPEN 362 (3) – Communication Networks (CMPEN 271 or CMPEN 270; Concurrent: STAT 301 or STAT 318 or STAT 401 or STAT 414 or STAT 418)
- CMPEN 431 (3) – Introduction to Computer Architecture (CMPEN 331 or CMPEN 371)
- CMPEN 454 (3) – Fundamentals of Computer Vision (MATH 230 or MATH 231; CMPSC 121 or CMPSC 201)
- CMPEN 462 (3) – Wireless Communications Systems and Security (CMPEN/EE 362)
- EE 456 (3) – Introduction to Neural Networks (CMPSC 201 or CMPSC 202; MATH 220)

Note: Students may take only one course for credit from CMPSC 451 and 455

Note: Some courses are NOT offered every semester or even every year.

Select 3 credits from the following list (prerequisites appear in parentheses).

- CMPSC 483W (3) – Software Design Methods (CMPSC 221; CMPSC 465; ENGL 202C)
- CMPSC 431W (3) – Database Management Systems (CMPSC 221; ENGL 202C)

Communications (9 credits)

- ENGL 15 GWS (3) – Rhetoric and Composition (ENGL 30 GWS may be substituted)
- ENGL 202C GWS (3) – Technical Writing
- CAS 100 A/B (3) – Effective Speech

Quantification and Statistics (20 credits)

- Mathematics (14 credits):
 - MATH 140 GQ (4) – Calculus with Analytic Geometry I
 - MATH 141 GQ (4) – Calculus with Analytic Geometry II
 - MATH 220 GQ (2) – Matrices
 - MATH 230 (4) – Calculus and Vector Analysis (combination of MATH 231 (2) and MATH 232 (2) may be substituted)
- Probability and Statistics (6 credits):
 - Either STAT (MATH) 318 and 319 OR STAT (MATH) 414 and 415 (STAT/MATH 418 may substitute for 318 or 414)

General Education Knowledge Domains (31-32 credits)

- Physics (8 credits):
 - PHYS 211 GN (4) – General Physics (mechanics)
 - PHYS 212 GN (4) – General Physics (electricity, magnetism)
- Additional natural science (2-3 credits):

Select 2 credits from PHYS 213 GN (2), 214 GN (2), or 3 credits from any GN except the following: ASTRO 1, 7N, 10, 11, 120, 140; all BI SC courses; All CHEM courses below 110 (except 3 credits of CHEM 106 can be used); PHYS 250, 251, all PHYS courses below PHYS 211, GEOSC 20.

Details for the remaining General Education requirements can be found in the [Baccalaureate Degree General Education Requirements](#) at

<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/baccalaureate-degree-general->

Supporting Courses (6 credits)

Guidelines: Choose six credits of **400-level non-CMPSC/CMPEN/DS** courses, having a **common theme**, that **support a career in computer science**. Acceptable alternatives include 6 credits in mathematics (MATH) and/or statistics (STAT); 6 credits in information sciences (IST), or 6 credits in engineering leadership/entrepreneurship (ENGR, excluding co-op credits). Independent study credits may not be used. Any deviation from these alternatives requires a petition. Because a petition could be denied, you should seek approval before scheduling the course. Note that you may need to take more than two courses to satisfy the 6-credit requirement.

Examples of courses that would be acceptable include:

- Most courses with the prefix MATH, STAT, IST, EDSGN, or ENGR (excluding co-op credits). These are currently the types of courses most commonly used to fulfill the Supporting Courses requirement.
- Technical courses at the 400-level (not CMPSC/CMPEN); e.g., chemistry, physics, biology, engineering (because they provide additional technical depth or breath).
- Courses that relate to business or management; e.g., finance, accounting, marketing, economics (because most CMPSC majors must work in a business environment).
- Courses in linguistics (because the study of language relates to programming languages)
- Psychology, if the courses relate to cognition, perception, learning, memory, vision (because they relate to AI), but not say development through adulthood, abnormal psychology, social psychology, religious approaches to psychology.
- Philosophy, if the courses relate to ethics, logic, science, language, or similar topics.
- Foreign language courses that relate to communication in the language (because of its value in a global work environment).

Examples of courses that fail to meet the spirit of the requirement include:

- Crime, Law, and Justice (their one course on computer security is remedial for CMPSC majors).
- History, Sociology, English, Education, Communication, Instructional Systems, Military.
- Art, even though it might be loosely related to computer graphics, or web development.
- Music, unless both courses deal with electronic music.
- MATH (STAT) 414, 415, 418 (these courses can only be applied to the statistic's requirement in Section IV).
- MATH (CMPSC) 451, 455, 456, 467 (cross-listed with CMPSC).
- MATH 470, 471, 493 (designed for education majors).

Foreign Language Proficiency (4 credits)

CMPSC majors are required to demonstrate proficiency equivalent to two semesters of a single foreign language. Since Penn State now requires the equivalent of one semester of a foreign language for admission, most students can meet the CMPSC foreign language requirement in one of the following ways:

- Complete the 4th or higher year of a single foreign language in high school (submit a petition and include a copy of your HS transcript). You must still make up the four credits, however. In effect, four credits are added to your Department List requirement.
- Complete the 2nd (or higher) semester of one foreign language; e.g. SPAN 2.
- Complete two semesters (8 credits) of a NEW foreign language (other than the one you took in high school). Four of these credits can be applied to Department List electives.
- Successfully complete Penn State's proficiency testing in a foreign language. You must still make up the four credits, however. In effect, four credits are added to your Department List requirement.

If you were admitted to Penn State with a foreign language deficiency, you must complete two semesters (8 credits) of a single foreign language; however, only 4 of those credits can be applied to your degree requirements.

Department List (General Elective) Guidelines (10-14 credits)

Choose enough credits to bring the total number of credits up to at least 127 (126 if you entered the major prior to 2018). If your US/IL course was not an Arts, Humanities, Social or Behavioral Sciences course, it may be counted in this list. (For US/IL courses, see the *General Education and US & International Cultures in the Curriculum* booklet). These are sometimes called approved free electives or general electives, but the following restrictions apply:

- no courses not satisfying minimum requirements for baccalaureate degree program (see course descriptions in *University Bulletin*)
- no courses described as intended for non-science or non-technical majors in course description in *University Bulletin*. (**You may take non-technical courses**, but you should look at the *Bulletin* to be sure the description doesn't say "for non-science majors only").
- no courses similar or remedial to a required course or course already taken (when in doubt, check with your advisor before scheduling the course). For example, you may not include 2 credits of MATH 140A or 2 credits of CHEM 106.
- not ENGL 4, 5, or any other remedial English
- no more than 3 credits of ROTC
- no more than 6 credits of music performance courses
- no more than 3 additional credits of physical education

- no more than 3 credits of Cooperative Education
- no more than 2 credits of Engineering Internship
- no more than 3 credits of CHEM 106
- none of the following:
 - Astronomy (ASTRO) 1, 7N, 10, 11, 120, 140
 - Biological Science (BI SC) 1, 2, 3, 4
 - Chemistry (CHEM) 1, 3, 101, 108
 - Computer Science (CMPSC) 100, 101, 200, 201, 203
 - Earth and Mineral Sciences (EM SC) 150
 - English as a Second Language (ESL) 004
 - Information Science & Technology (IST) 140, 210, 220, 230, 240, 242, 261, 311, 361;
 - Language and Literacy Education (LL ED) 5, 10
 - Mathematics (MATH) 200, MATH below 140
 - Philosophy (PHIL) 12
 - Physical Science (PH SC) 7
 - Physics (PHYS) 250, 251, PHYS below 211
 - Science, Technology, and Society (S T S) 150
 - Speech Communication (CAS) 126, 283
 - Statistics (STAT or MATH) below 318 except for STAT 200, 401
 - STAT (MATH) 318, STAT (MATH) 319, STAT (MATH) 414, STAT (MATH 415), STAT (MATH) 418

First Year Seminar (1 credit)

Small interactive classes that allow first-year students to meet faculty and alumni, explore different majors and career opportunities, or focus on hands-on projects and skill development. If you started at a campus that did not require a separate 1-credit First Year Seminar course or are a transfer student, then you must add an additional credit to the Department List requirement.

Helpful University Park Offices and Phone Numbers

College of Engineering:

Dean's Office, 101 Hammond Building	865-7537
Associate Dean for Education, 101 Hammond Building	863-3750
Global Engineering Education, 205 Hammond Building	863-9899
Engineering Advising Center, 208 Hammond Building	863-1033
Assistant Dean for Academics, 208 Hammond Building	865-7539
Engineering Outreach and Inclusion, 211 Hammond Building	865-4287
Career Resources and Employer Relations, 117 Hammond Building	863-1032
Outreach for Adult Learners, 128 Outreach Building	863-2504
Career Services, 101 MBNA Career Services Center	865-2377
Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk, 204 Wagner Building	865-4357
Counseling and Psychological Services, 501 Student Health Center	863-0395
Student Disability Resources, 116 Boucke Building	863-1807
Penn State World Campus, 128 Outreach Building	865-5403
Division of Undergraduate Studies (DUS), 101 Grange Building	865-7576
Penn State Learning, 220 Boucke Building	865-1841
Office of Student Aid, 314 Shields Building	865-6301
Residence Life, 201 Johnston Commons	863-1710
Undergraduate Admissions, 201 Shields Building	865-5471
Schreyer Honors College, 10 Schreyer Honors College	863-2635
Office of Veterans Programs, 325 Boucke Building	863-0465
General Information, HUB Desk, First Floor Lobby	865-2000

Sources of Information

This *Handbook* provides program information specifically for the undergraduate computer science major. It should be used as a supplement to the *College of Engineering Undergraduate Programs Guide* that is available online. The information in this *Handbook* pertains to students who began at Penn State in Summer 2020, Fall 2020, or Spring 2021 semesters. Students beginning at Penn State in an earlier year should refer to the appropriate earlier version of the Handbook. Students in pre-major (ENGR) status may use this Handbook as a reference for scheduling; however, your official degree requirements will be established when you enter the major. For information about the computer engineering degree, refer to the *Computer Engineering Undergraduate Handbook*. For information about the data sciences (computational option) degree, refer to the *Data Sciences Computational Option Undergraduate Handbook*. All of these documents are available in the department office, W209 Westgate Building and online at <http://eecs.psu.edu/students/undergraduate/Majors-Minors-Certificates.aspx>. (If you are at a campus other than University Park, you should contact the College of Engineering representative at your location).

Although this *Handbook* lists all requirements for the computer science major, only those specific to computer science are described in detail. Other general College and University requirements are discussed only briefly with references to more comprehensive supporting documents. Hard copies of these documents can be obtained from a Dean's office or local bookstore. Many are available on-line. A list of links to useful web resources is provided below.

School of EECS – <http://eecs.psu.edu>

Engineering Advising Center – <https://advising.engr.psu.edu>

Academic Advising Portal – <http://advising.psu.edu>

Bulletin of Baccalaureate Degree Programs – <http://bulletins.psu.edu/undergrad>

University Faculty Senate – <http://www.senate.psu.edu/policies/>

Student Affairs – <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu>

General Education – <https://gened.psu.edu>

LionPATH – <http://launch.LionPATH.psu.edu>

Association of Women in Computing - <http://www.awc.cse.psu.edu>

Association for Computing Machinery Student Chapter – <http://acm.psu.edu>

For additional information, you can contact the **Engineering Advising Center** (208 Hammond, 863-1033), the Assistant Dean for Student Services (208 Hammond, 865-7539), or the **Department of Computer Science and Engineering** (W209 Westgate Building, 865-9505). The structure in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering includes an Undergraduate Program Coordinator, an Undergraduate Adviser and an Undergraduate Staff Assistant, all of whom can provide information and guidance during your academic. **If you communicate via e-mail, always use your Penn State account**, not another account such as Gmail.