

BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (STEM)

The bachelor of arts (BA) program in computer science is designed for students who wish to combine computer science with a second major or with a set of secondary fields (minors), typically in natural science, liberal arts, or business. The program provides a foundation in computer science, along with lots of room in the curriculum to select courses in other disciplines. Students are required to elect a second major or two minors. As part of a residency requirement, all computer science majors must take a minimum of 18 upper-level credits in computer science at GW. These credits include courses that might be taken as part of an approved study abroad program.

For those who want to combine core skills in computer science with another major, the BA program is the right choice. The BS in computer science program may be more appropriate for students who wish to have more depth and focus in computer science.

Students in the bachelor of arts program work with their advisors to select technical electives. Detailed information on the curriculum and elective courses is available in this Bulletin (p. 1), which is the definitive statement of degree requirements for students. Degree requirements in the current Bulletin apply to students matriculating in the current academic year. Bulletins applicable to students who matriculated in prior academic years are archived (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/archives/>).

Double major

Non-SEAS students interested in pursuing the BA in computer science as a double major should see Double Major under SEAS Regulations (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/engineering-applied-science/#seasregulationstext>) in this Bulletin.

This is a STEM designated program.

Visit the program website (<https://www.cs.seas.gwu.edu/bachelor-arts-program/>) for more information.

ADMISSIONS

For more information on the admission process, please visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website. Applications may be submitted via the Common Application.

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
The George Washington University
800 21st Street NW, Suite 100
Washington DC 20052

Contact for questions:
gwadm@gwu.edu or 202-994-6040

REQUIREMENTS

Residency requirement—As part of a residency requirement, all BA in computer science majors, whether primary majors within SEAS

or secondary majors in another school, must take a minimum of 18 credits in upper-level Computer Science (CSCI) courses at GW. Credits earned in an approved study abroad program count toward this requirement.

Second major or two minors requirement—All BA in computer science majors are required to declare and complete either a second major or two minors in another academic department.

Recommended program of study

Code	Title	Credits
First semester		15
CSCI 1010	Computer Science Orientation	1
CSCI 1111	Introduction to Software Development	3
SEAS 1001	Engineering Orientation	1
UW 1020	University Writing ¹	4
Mathematics requirement ²		3
Social sciences elective ³		3
Second semester		15
CSCI 1112	Algorithms and Data Structures	3
CSCI 1311	Discrete Structures I	3
General Elective ^{2,5}		3
Natural or physical sciences with a lab elective ³		3
Social sciences elective ³		3
Third semester		15
CSCI 2113	Software Engineering	3
Humanities elective ³		3
Natural or physical sciences with a lab elective ³		3
Second major or minor elective ⁵		3
Statistics requirement course ⁴		3
Fourth semester		15
CSCI 2441W	Database Systems and Team Projects	3
CSCI 2460	Introduction to Computer Systems	3
Humanities elective ³		3
Second major or minor elective ⁵		3
General elective ⁵		3

Fifth semester	15
Advanced CS elective ⁶	3
Arts elective ³	3
Three second major or minor electives (3 credits each) ⁵	9
Sixth semester	16
CSCI 3212	4
Global or cross-cultural elective ³	3
Humanities elective ³	3
Two second major or minor electives (3 credits each) ⁵	6
Seventh semester	15
Two Advanced CS Electives ⁶	6
Global or cross-cultural elective ³	3
Two second major or minor electives (3 credits each) ⁵	6
Eighth semester	15
Advanced computer science elective ⁶	3
Humanities elective ³	3
General elective ⁵	3
Two second major or minor electives (3 credits each) ⁵	6

¹ Course satisfies the University General Education Requirement (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>) in writing. UW 1020 must be completed prior to any writing course in the major, including CSCI 2441W.

² The mathematics requirement can be met by taking either MATH 1221 or MATH 1231.

³ This course should be selected from the Columbian College General Education Curriculum (G-PAC) (<https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/gpac-course-list/>). From the G-PAC webpage, select the corresponding course type. For example, choose G-PAC: Global or Cross-cultural to find the courses that satisfy the global and cross-cultural elective. The natural or physical sciences with lab electives must have a laboratory component.

⁴ The statistics requirement can be met by taking one of the following courses: APSC 3115, CSCI 3362, CSCI 4341, CSCI 6362, DNSC 1001, STAT 1051, or STAT 1053.

⁵ General electives and electives toward the second major or minor—All students in the BA in computer science program are required to complete 14 courses, each offered for a minimum of 3 credits, which may be counted toward the second major or minor or as general electives. At least 12 of these courses must be taken outside the computer science major. All courses used to fulfill the

general electives and electives toward second major or minor requirements must have the explicit, documented approval from the faculty advisor, even when such courses are required for a minor or second major or have transferred to the University as Advanced Placement (AP) credit. Guidance for general and second major/minor electives is available on the Department of Computer Science website (<https://www.cs.seas.gwu.edu/>).

The following guidelines and/or restrictions apply to selecting courses to satisfy this requirement:

1. Additional CSCI courses numbered above 2400 may count toward this requirement. Students may take a maximum of two research and independent study courses, for which the student must provide documentation of output, such as papers, presentations, or software. For courses from other departments, students must obtain the approval of the faculty advisor.
2. Approved courses from the SEAS Humanities and Social Science Electives lists may count toward this requirement.
3. Computer science courses taught by another department generally do not count toward this requirement. Courses that significantly overlap with, or are not as advanced as, the required content for the computer science degree program do not count toward this requirement. Such courses include, but are not limited to, the following: BADM 2301, EMSE 4197, ISTM 3119, ISTM 4120, ISTM 4121, ISTM 4123, STAT 1051, STAT 1053, and STAT 1129.
4. Courses that significantly overlap with any other course(s) used toward the computer science degree, regardless of the department(s) in which they are taken, may not count toward this requirement.
5. Students taking MATH 1220 as a prerequisite for MATH 1221 may count MATH 1220 as a General Elective.

Because of content overlap among courses in general, some courses may be approved for one student and not for another, based on other courses the student has taken. For example, if a student uses PHYS 1021 toward the natural or physical sciences with a lab elective or general elective requirement, PHYS 1011 may not be used to fulfill this requirement, but PHYS 1011 would count for a student who has not taken PHYS 1021.

⁶ Advanced CS elective requirement. All students in the BA in computer science program are required to take four technical courses (for a minimum of 12 credits) of computer science courses numbered 2400 and above. Of these courses, at least two (for a minimum of 6 credits) must be at the 4000 level or above. CSCI 4243, CSCI 4243W, CSCI 4244 may not be used toward the advanced CS elective requirement. The faculty advisor's documented approval is required before these courses may be applied toward degree completion.

COMBINED PROGRAMS

Combined programs

- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in computer science and Master of Science in the field of computer science (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/engineering-applied-science/computer-science/combined-ba-ms-computer-science/>)
- Dual Bachelor of Arts with a major in computer science and Master of Science in the field of cybersecurity in computer science (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/engineering-applied-science/computer-science/combined-ba-ms-cybersecurity/>)