Undecided about a major?

Consider Information Technology and Computer Science. Start with an IT major while you explore your options!

Information Technology (IT) is concerned with forming and maintaining computing environments for businesses and organizations. Information technicians choose and configure hardware and software, monitor performance and security of databases, web servers and computer networks. If you dream about providing computing support at the 21st century level, IT is for you! IT technicians are sought in health care, financial or educational services, commerce and manufacturing. As our IT major requires only a small number of credits, it can be easily taken as a second major.

Computer Science (CS) explores programming and theoretical foundations of computing with emphasis on algorithms and mathematical issues. Computer scientists work on developing new designs for hardware and software. CS majors prepare for careers in software development or for graduate studies in any area of computing. If you dream about designing space missions at NASA, this can be your starting point!

Careers and jobs
According to recent analysis, computing jobs are one of the fastest growing segments in the job market today and will remain in this position for a number of years. The jobs that could be moved overseas have already been moved -- most current IT and CS jobs cannot be moved overseas because of security concerns. IT and CS majors prepare for careers that offer great pay, influence the future, and spread innovation in all sectors of public life, from health care to transportation and from entertainment to environment.

Altogether, IT and CS are excellent career choices for life!

CS and IT major programs prepare for many careers, including the following.

- Computer programmers (CS),
- Computer software engineers/designers (CS),
- Computer scientists (educators/researchers) (CS),
- Database administrators (CS or IT),
- Web programmers and web server administrators (CS or IT)
- System and network administrators (IT),
- Computer security specialists (IT)
- Computer support specialists/technicians (IT),
- Computer system analysts (designing solutions for organizations) (IT).

An increased spectrum of jobs becomes available after earning a graduate degree. Our CS major offers excellent preparation for graduate studies -- some of our students, who graduated in May 2010, went on to Cornell University, the University of Copenhagen (Denmark) and other prestigious universities.
Which major should I start with, and what options will I have afterwards?

If you are not sure, you can start in the IT major -- it requires only 39 credits, including an internship, and gives you flexible options:

- To gain a deeper understanding of computing, including its foundations, you can easily switch to the CS major after a semester or two;
- To build more strength in IT you can add the CS minor, or just take courses and internships beyond the required 39 credits;
- To expand your knowledge and skills in business, education, math, natural sciences (biology, physics, chemistry, environmental science, ...) or other areas, you can add a second major in such an area -- the 39 credits devoted to IT should still be quite easy to complete;
- If you wish, you can replace the IT major with a minor in IT or CS. The knowledge and skills in computing gained through the minor will nicely complement those of your new area of study and will be highly marketable when you start looking for a job.

If you like math and computer programming, the CS major is recommended. It can be strengthened by adding the IT minor.

There is a substantial overlap in requirements between CS and IT majors. It is easy to switch between these two academic programs.

Our most committed students often choose a double major or a major and a minor, enroll in the Honors Program, or do an Advanced Honors Project (write a thesis). They also register as teaching assistants at our department or work as tutors at the Learning Center. We encourage you to consider such possibilities.

Which courses should I start with?

The following chart indicates if a course counts towards General Education Program IT and CS minor and/or major programs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>GenEd</th>
<th>IT</th>
<th>CS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSC 119 Introduction to UNIX/Linux (1cr.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSC 121 Introduction to Computing and the Web (3cr.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSC 217 Discrete Math with Computer Applications (3cr.)</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CSC 221 Introduction to Programming, in Python (3 cr.)</td>
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<td>yes</td>
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