

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer science is concerned with theoretical and practical methods of storing, processing and communicating information by means of computing devices and computer networks. Professional computer scientists obtain a formal education through the BS, MS or PhD degrees and apply their knowledge to many diversified fields of science, engineering, business and communications. Computer science offers opportunities to both specialists and generalists.

Within a short period of time, the computing field has evolved from one associated primarily with engineering and scientific calculations of only casual interest to the layperson, to a factor of significant influence in almost every aspect of modern life. Technical careers in computer architecture and software design, as well as applications in the business and scientific areas, require a thorough knowledge of the principles of computer science. In addition, most managers in any field require some familiarity with computers, not only to be able to understand them, but also to incorporate them into their own decision-making processes.

The department offers the full range of degree programs—BS, MS and PhD. A graduate certificate program in big data analytics is also offered. All programs are offered in Stillwater. The BS is also offered on the Tulsa campus (upper-division courses only). Students may choose to complete all BS degree requirements online. The Computer Science Department has a variety of computing resources, including a Linux cluster (big data lab), several Linux workstations, an iMac mobile app lab, robotics and graphics, and augmented and virtual reality labs. The systems are available to Computer Science students, faculty, and staff for both course assignments and research work. Graduate students have access to several research labs. The department also has a Collaborative Learning Laboratory for networking and group work.

Computer Science students may pursue internships in various industries such as financial/banking, energy (oil, gas, and wind), medical, defense, aeronautical, and IT. The 4+1 program allows a student to apply 9 hours of computer science courses to both their BS and MS programs. Most BS and MS graduates obtain positions in industry. PhD graduates find university teaching and research positions or positions in industry.

Computers can be accessed through the OSU Information Technology Division. There are a number of personal computer labs located in various buildings on campus. Some of the residence halls have personal computer labs available. All of these labs have access to personal computer application software and to all mainframe computers on campus, as well as Internet access. Both University and department computers can be accessed 24 hours a day.