Where do Computer Science majors go?

According to the 2015 Graduating Student Survey (with an 89.3% response rate for undergraduates in the department):

- 92% of graduates were employed or going to graduate school.
  - 82.7% were employed.
  - 9.3% had secure plans to attend grad school.

Examples of organizations that have hired Computer Science majors in recent years:

Graduate schools that Computer Science majors have attended in recent years:

- Columbia University
- Harvard University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- New York University
- Stanford University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Yale University

What can you do with a degree in Computer Science?

Computer scientists are the designers, creators, and inventors of new technology. By creating new technology, or finding alternative uses for existing resources, they solve complex business, scientific, and general computing problems. They may work on multidisciplinary projects with other professionals, such as electrical and mechanical engineers; computer scientists also conduct research in areas such as computer hardware architecture, virtual realities and robotics while others design computer chips and processors. Computer science majors go on to work in industries including software, internet, advertising, financial services, informational technology services, consulting, and retail. Organizations that recruit at Columbia include Microsoft, 10Gen, Amazon, Apple, Bloomberg, EMC Corporation, Facebook, Google, Intel, Palantir, and Twitter. Use CCE’s Engineering Industry pages to learn more about career options.
What do employers want?

In addition to your technical skills, which might include Python, Java, and C/C++, top skills/qualities sought by employers include:

1. Ability to work in a team structure
2. Ability to make decisions and solve problems
3. Ability to verbally communicate with persons inside and outside the organization
4. Ability to plan, organize, and prioritize work
5. Ability to obtain and process information
6. Ability to analyze quantitative data
7. Technical knowledge related to the job
8. Proficiency with computer software programs
9. Ability to create and/or edit written reports
10. Ability to sell or influence others

Source: National Association of Colleges and Employers, 2015 Job Outlook

Your major can demonstrate relevant coursework and knowledge to a prospective employer, but your studies aren’t the only aspect of your experience that employers are evaluating. They select people who they believe can do the job (have the right skills), want the job (have demonstrated an interest in the field) and are a personality fit for the team and organization.

What value do Computer Science majors bring?

The curriculum helps you to develop the ability to do the following, including:

- Apply knowledge of mathematics, science, and engineering
- Design and conduct experiments, as well as analyze and interpret data
- Design a system, component, or process to meet desired needs within realistic constraints
- Function on multidisciplinary teams and communicate effectively
- Identify, formulate, and solve engineering problems
- Use the techniques, skills, and modern engineering tools necessary for engineering practice

What if I’m an International Student?

For international students at Columbia under student visas, selecting your major can play a significant role if you plan to work in the US after completion of your degree. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) students can receive a 24-month extension of optional practical training after the initial period of authorized post-completion OPT. Students with questions about this should visit the International Student & Scholars Office (ISSO), view ISSO’s Work Opportunities for Students in F-1 Status site (columbia.edu/cu/isko/visa/F-1/index.html) and view CCE’s International Students webpage at careereducation.columbia.edu/students/International-Students.