## What To Do With A Major In Computer Science
The field of computer science is constantly changing. The areas listed below do not exhaust possible career options.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Information/Strategies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PROGRAMMING</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Systems</td>
<td>Computer vendors</td>
<td>Gain relevant experience through internships or co-ops.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Applications</td>
<td>Software and computer companies</td>
<td>Develop an attention to detail and a flair for creativity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business Applications:</td>
<td>Any large organization including: Banks, retail chains, manufacturers,</td>
<td>Learn to work well with a team and to meet deadlines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intelligence, Warehousing, Information Delivery, Maintenance</td>
<td>universities, and government agencies</td>
<td>Supplement computer degree with courses in business, science, or engineering.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Management</td>
<td>Management consulting firms</td>
<td>Stay current on programming languages.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contract and temporary employers</td>
<td>Earn a master’s degree for upper level positions.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Research laboratories</td>
<td>Seek the Certified Computing Professional designation by completing a series of exams</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>and experiential requirements.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Banks and financial institutions</td>
<td>Develop strong interpersonal skills. Learn to communicate effectively with technical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Insurance companies</td>
<td>and non-technical colleagues. Gain programming experience. Many analysts begin their</td>
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<td>Quality Assurance</td>
<td>Manufacturers</td>
<td>Earn an M.B.A. degree for advanced positions.</td>
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<td>Specialty Systems:</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal government</td>
<td>Plan to continually educate self on new computer languages and technology.</td>
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<td>Database, Client-Server,</td>
<td>Computer companies</td>
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<td>Expert</td>
<td>Research institutions</td>
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<td><strong>NETWORK TECHNOLOGY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Installation and</td>
<td>Variety of organizations and industries</td>
<td>Work in university computer labs. Develop good communication skills and an interest in</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
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<td>helping others. Gain knowledge in a variety of</td>
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<td>Administration</td>
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computer areas including minor programming, software, and hardware. Stay abreast of the latest technology and software. Earn certifications in networking and computer security.

| INTERNET             | Network access points | Internet-related companies including:
|                      | Backbone operators     | Browsers, Search engines, Website design services
|                      | Online service providers| Large businesses
|                      | Internet service providers| **CONSULTING**
|                      | Computer/equipment vendors | Consulting firms
|                      |                           | Self-employed
|                      |                           | **EDUCATION**
|                      |                           | Public and private schools, K-12
|                      |                           | Colleges and universities
|                      |                           | Certification required for public school teaching. Earn a doctoral degree in computer science for post-secondary teaching. Earn a graduate degree in information technology or a related field for instructional technology. Develop a research specialty for university teaching. Gain experience working with other students through tutoring or positions in

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### NON-TECHNICAL
| Customer/Product Support | Technical Writing | Sales and Marketing | Software/hardware manufacturers | Retail stores | Software vendors | Develop excellent communication skills and an interest in helping customers solve problems. Work in university computer labs. Supplement curriculum with technical writing courses to develop skills. Seek related work experiences. |

### GENERAL INFORMATION
- Complete informational interviews with current computer science professionals to help establish career goals.
- Having related experience is critical to most employers that hire computer science majors. Obtain an internship, co-op, or part-time job in a relevant area to increase employability.
- Obtain vendor specific certifications or networking certifications to gain a competitive edge.
- Develop strong interpersonal, communication, and other “soft skills.” Learn to work well on a team.
- Programming and consulting may go hand-in-hand. Many occupations in these areas have responsibilities that overlap.

Prepared by the Career Planning staff of Career Services at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.