

Undergraduate Handbook 2020-2021 Edition

Department of Computer Science
California State University, Fullerton

Draft: August 17, 2020

Contents

1	Introduction	7
1.1	The Field of Computer Science	7
1.2	The Department	7
1.3	Accreditation	8
1.4	The Programs	8
1.5	Objectives and Outcomes	9
1.6	Using This Document	9
2	Sources of Information	11
3	The CS Major	13
3.1	Major Requirements at a Glance	13
3.2	Major Prerequisite Tree	13
3.3	Lower-Division Core	14
3.4	Tuffix	15
3.5	Mathematics Requirements	15
3.6	Science and Mathematics Electives	16
3.7	Upper Division Core	16
3.8	Computer Science Major Electives	16
3.8.1	Elective Specializations	18

3.9	B.S. in Computer Science with Cybersecurity Concentration	18
3.10	General Education (GE)	18
3.11	Academic Requirements	21
3.11.1	Grades	21
4	The CS Minor	23
4.1	Minor Requirements at a Glance	23
4.2	Minor Prerequisite Tree	24
4.3	For Majors in Related Fields	24
5	Alternative Pathways	25
5.1	Transfer	25
5.2	Computer Science Placement Examination	28
5.3	Missing CPSC 120 or 121	28
5.4	Advanced Placement (AP)	28
5.5	Internships	28
5.6	International Students	29
5.7	ROTC	29
5.8	Independent Study	30
5.9	Petitioning for Classes	30
5.10	Request Forms	30
6	Advisement	33
6.1	General Advice	33
6.2	Major Advisement	33
6.3	Required Advisement	34
6.4	General Education (GE) Advisement	34
6.5	First-time Freshmen	34

6.6	Career Advising	34
6.7	Studying Abroad	34
6.8	Transfer Students	35
6.9	Nearing Graduation (Within One Year)	35
6.10	Probation	35
6.11	Peer Advising & Clubs	35
7	Progress Flowcharts	37
8	Credits and Revision History	41
	Index	43

1

Introduction

1.1 The Field of Computer Science

Computer Science is the systematic study of computing systems and computation. The body of knowledge contains the theoretical foundation for understanding computing systems, design methodology, algorithms, and software and hardware tools, as well as application development in a variety of different areas.

Our curriculum covers a wide range of areas, including:

- multimedia and digital game technologies,
- Internet and enterprise computing,
- wireless and mobile computing,
- databases and data mining,
- computer security,
- software engineering, and
- computational bioinformatics.

Computer Science prepares graduates for rewarding careers in all areas of business, government, education and industry. These organizations, large and small, need computer professionals to address their needs with specific programs and systems. Computer science professionals tackle complicated problems and create computer solutions to solve them, devising new ways to use computers. Computer Science has advanced to almost every aspect of society and developed services to make life better.

1.2 The Department

The faculty and staff of the Computer Science Department welcome you into our program and sincerely wish you good luck on your journey into higher education, and continued success. Whenever you have a question about the

Department—its policies, its curriculum, its services, your progress, or anything else—feel free to contact us.

Web: <http://fullerton.edu/ecs/cs/>
E-mail: csoffice@fullerton.edu
In person: Room CS-522
Telephone: (657) 278-3700
Fax: (657) 278-7168
Postal mail: California State University, Fullerton
Department of Computer Science
P.O. Box 6870
Fullerton, CA 92834-6870

1.3 Accreditation

The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science degree at CSUF is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET (<http://www.abet.org>).



1.4 The Programs

The Department offers the following Undergraduate programs, which are documented in this Handbook:

1. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (B.S. CS),
2. Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with Concentration in Cybersecurity, and
3. Minor in Computer Science.

The Department also offers Graduate programs, which are documented elsewhere:

1. Master of Science in Computer Science (M.S. CS),
2. Master of Science in Software Engineering (M.S.E.), and
3. Accelerated Master of Science in Software Engineering (A.M.S.E.).

CS courses are also components of Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Mathematics programs at CSUF.

1.5 Objectives and Outcomes

The Program Educational Objectives and Program Outcomes for the CS B.S. are documented at <http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/cs/about/peo-so.php>

1.6 Using This Document

This handbook covers information on how to complete a B.S. or a Minor in Computer Science, and contains information relevant to students pursuing them. If you are pursuing a Masters degree, please refer to the Graduate Handbook instead of this document.

In order to minimize duplicated information, this document references other documents rather than copying their contents. The PDF version of this Handbook presents these references as clickable links. Some aspects of our programs are complex, and you may find it difficult to choose among alternatives. In those cases, we present our suggested default choice as a tip, as shown below. You are not required to follow these tips, but doing so is often a prudent choice.

TIP When in doubt, heed tips such as this one.

This document has been formatted so that it may be printed as a booklet. Print double-sided with staples (or other binding) on the left side. The document will look best if printed in color, but it may also be printed in grayscale (a.k.a. semitone).

2

Sources of Information

You may find the following sources to be helpful.

- The University Catalog: <http://catalog.fullerton.edu/>
- Advising:
 - CS Department Advising:
<http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/cs/resources/advisement.php>
 - Center for Academic Support in ECS (CASECS):
<http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/resources/casecs.php>
 - Student Success Center:
<http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/resources/StudentSuccessCenter.php>
 - Academic Advisement Center (GE advising): <https://www.fullerton.edu/aac/>
- Department of Computer Science: <http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/cs/>
- General Education (GE):
http://www.fullerton.edu/undergraduate/general_education/index.php
- Course transfer database: <http://www.assist.org>
- Center for Internships & Community Engagement — Academic Internships:
<http://www.fullerton.edu/cice/students/internships.php>
- Catalogs of nearby community colleges:
 - Cypress College:
<http://www.cypresscollege.edu/academics/CollegeCatalog.aspx>
 - Fullerton College: <http://www.fullcoll.edu/catalog>
 - Golden West College: <http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/catalog/>
 - Irvine Valley College: <http://www.ivc.edu/catalog/Pages/catalog2014.aspx>
 - Orange Coast College:
<http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/CourseCatalog/Pages/default.aspx>

- **Saddleback College:** <http://www.saddleback.edu/cc/course-catalog>
- **Santa Ana College:**
<https://www.sac.edu/CatalogAndSchedule/Pages/catalog.aspx>
- **Santiago Canyon College:**
<http://www.sccollege.edu/StudentServices/Admissions/Pages/CATALOGSCHEDULE.aspx>

3

The CS Major

3.1 Major Requirements at a Glance

The requirements for the CS B.S. are detailed in the University Catalog

https://catalog.fullerton.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=61&poid=28640&returnto=7397

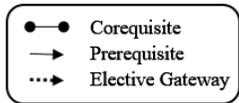
The requirements fit into 6 categories:

1. *Lower-Division Core*: 100/200-level CPSC courses covering computer programming and data structures.
2. *Mathematics Requirements*: MATH courses laying the foundation for CS theory and practice.
3. *Science and Mathematics Electives*: Physical science and/or mathematics courses that provide a breadth of scientific knowledge and prepare students for certain upper-division electives.
4. *Upper-Division Core*: 300/400-level CPSC courses that build directly upon the Lower-Division Core, Mathematics, and Science courses listed above, and complete the computer science canon.
5. *Major Electives*: You may choose 15 units (ordinarily 5 courses) that support your interests and career goals.
6. *General Education (GE)*: A blend of varied topics that round out a broad, liberal arts education, and satisfy University graduation requirements.

Our accreditor, ABET, requires at least 30 units of mathematics and science courses. The Mathematics Requirements and Science and Mathematics Electives together satisfy this 30-unit requirement.

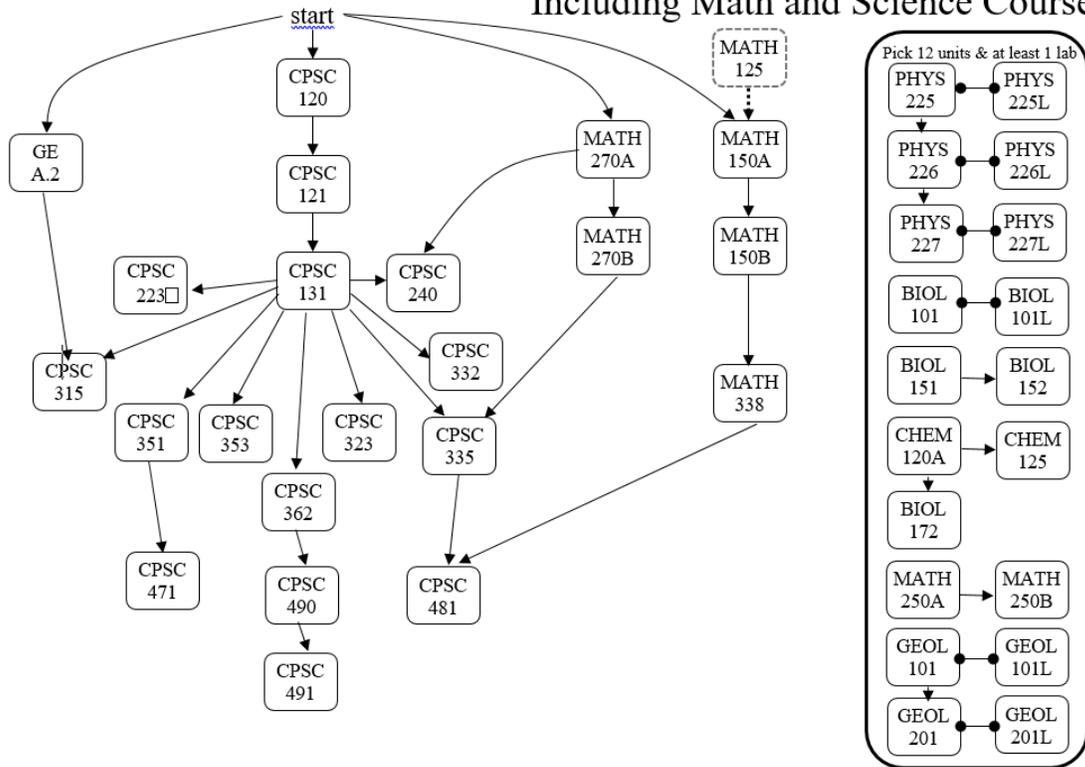
3.2 Major Prerequisite Tree

The following tree graph diagram illustrates the prerequisite and corequisite relationships between courses required for the major.



Undergraduate Core Courses

Including Math and Science Courses



Rev. 2020 02 26

TIP

You are ordinarily limited to 16 units each term. In order to finish the B.S. program in 8 semesters, you will need to take five classes each semester. Almost all CPSC and GE courses are 3 units each; almost all mathematics and science courses are 4 units each. Plan on taking four 3-unit courses (CPSC and/or GE), and one 4-unit course (mathematics or science) each semester, for a total of 16 units, until you have completed all required 4-unit courses.

3.3 Lower-Division Core

The first three courses in the major are CPSC 120, 121, and 131. These courses must be taken in sequence, and are prerequisites to practically every other CS course.

TIP

Prioritize completing CPSC 120, 121, then 131 as soon as possible.

If you come to CSUF with prior programming expertise, you may be able to skip some of these courses. See sections 5.2 and 5.4 for more information.

Our introductory programming courses are taught in C++, but cover concepts that are common to practically all programming languages. To establish some breadth of programming fluency, you are required to learn a second programming language. This is accomplished by passing one of the CPSC 223 courses.

TIP

Choose *CPSC 223C - C Programming* if you plan on taking security-related courses later on.

3.4 Tuffix

Students enrolled in CSPC 120, CPSC 121, and CPSC 131 are recommended to use the Computer Science Department's official GNU/Linux development environment, Tuffix. Tuffix is Tuffy the Titan's Linux distribution.

Instructions on how to install Tuffix or a Tuffix based VM are online at <http://csufcs.com/tuffixinstall>. The Tuffix Titanium Community for Students, <https://communities.fullerton.edu/course/view.php?id=1547> is the best venue to receive help with Tuffix. Students may self-enroll in the community; first login to your portal, then navigate to *Titanium communities*, next under the dashboard to the left click *Site home*, then click *Search Courses* on the right, search for Tuffix, in the results click *Tuffix Students*, under the gear in the upper right select *Enrol me in this course*, finally click on the button *Enrol me*. You may unenroll at any time.

The Tuffix home page is <https://github.com/kevinwortman/tuffix>.

Students interested in using Microsoft development tools may request a Dreamspark account at <http://dsreqform.ecs.fullerton.edu/>. A student may, at no monetary cost, download full featured versions of Microsoft Visual Studio.

Students interested in using Apple development tools can freely download Xcode through the App Store application bundled with macOS. Students may download Xcode directly from <https://developer.apple.com/xcode/>.

A CentOS-based shell server is available through secure shell (ssh) and secure file transfer protocol (sftp). The host-name is `ecs.fullerton.edu`. If your email address is `malcolm@csu.fullerton.edu`, then your username is `malcolm`. If you are using a command-line ssh client, then your command to connect to `ecs.fullerton.edu` will be `'ssh malcolm@ecs.fullerton.edu'`.

3.5 Mathematics Requirements

Before enrolling in Math 150A, you must either have recently passed *MATH 125 - Precalculus*, an equivalent course at another institution, or passed the Mathematics Qualifying Exam. Additional information on this exam is available in the online registration guide, and from the Fullerton Testing Center, Gordon Hall 229, and (657) 278-3838.

3.6 Science and Mathematics Electives

As stated in the University Catalog, you must complete at least 12 units of natural science and/or mathematics courses chosen from a designated list. The list includes only courses that dovetail with CS material, and may fit within a coherent 12-unit curriculum. Due to GE and ABET requirements, you must take at least one course with a laboratory experience. Eligible laboratory courses are designated in the Catalog.

Choose a set of courses that support each other and your future studies. Plan ahead, and discuss your plan for this requirement with your adviser.

TIP

PHYS 225, 225L, 226, 226L, and MATH 250A provide a strong foundation for later CS courses, meet all Science and Mathematics requirements, and fit within 12 units. Take this set of electives unless you are working toward a specific study plan focusing on biology, chemistry, geology, or mathematics.

The two-semester biology sequence is BIOL 151 and BIOL 152. This sequence replaced older courses numbered BIOL 171 and 172. Current students should take 151 and 152, but you may see references to 171 and 172 in some documents. Students who took 171 and 172 while they were offered may count those courses toward the Science and Mathematics Electives requirement.

3.7 Upper Division Core

CPSC 481 - Artificial Intelligence is the Core course with the longest chain of prerequisites. Plan your schedule so that you make steady progress toward meeting 481's prerequisites.

TIP

If possible, make progress on each of the following prerequisite chains every semester:

1. CPSC 120, 121, 131, 335, 481
2. MATH 270A, 270B
3. MATH 150A, 150B, 338

3.8 Computer Science Major Electives

You must select 15 units of electives, ordinarily five 3-unit courses, to satisfy your degree requirements. Select elective courses that are best aligned to your personal objectives. For example, if you aspire to create web applications and mobile apps, then courses such as CPSC 411, CPSC 349 and CPSC 449 are excellent choices. Consult mentors and advisors in selecting the elective courses that match your goals.

Courses outside of the computer science department may be used as elective courses. You must seek approval from a

major advisor before taking the course.

You may complete at most 3.0 units of Lower Division CS Electives. Students who need additional units due to the Placement Examination, transfer, or other circumstances are encouraged to consult with a major advisor and select upper division CS Electives.

You are required to complete at least 15.0 units of CS Electives. You may need to take additional electives if you are short on units due to the Placement Examination, transfer, or other circumstances.

A course may be used as an Upper Division CS Elective if it is a 3-unit, upper-division, CPSC course that is not an Upper Division Core requirement. Therefore, the following courses may count as Upper Division CS Electives:

- CPSC 301 - Programming Lab Practicum (2)
- CPSC 349 - Web Front-End Engineering (3)
- CPSC 375 - Introduction to Data Science and Big Data (3)
- CPSC 386 - Introduction to Game Design and Production (3)
- CPSC 411 - Mobile Device Application Programming (3)
- CPSC 431 - Database and Applications (3)
- CPSC 439 - Theory of Computation (3)
- CPSC 440 - Computer System Architecture (3)
- CPSC 449 - Web Back-End Engineering (3)
- CPSC 452 - Cryptography (3)
- CPSC 454 - Cloud Computing and Security (3)
- CPSC 455 - Web Security (3)
- CPSC 456 - Network Security Fundamentals (3)
- CPSC 458 - Malware Analysis (3)
- CPSC 459 - Blockchain Technologies (3)
- CPSC 462 - Software Design (3)
- CPSC 463 - Software Testing (3)
- CPSC 464 - Software Architecture (3)
- CPSC 466 - Software Process (3)
- CPSC 474 - Parallel and Distributed Computing (3)
- CPSC 479 - Introduction to High Performance Computing (3)
- CPSC 483 - Introduction to Machine Learning (3)
- CPSC 484 - Principles of Computer Graphics (3)
- CPSC 485 - Computational Bioinformatics (3)

- CPSC 486 - Game Programming (3)
- CPSC 489 - Game Development Project (3)
- CPSC 499 - Independent Study (1 - 3)
- EGGN 495 - Professional Practice (1-3)
- MATH 335 - Mathematical Probability (3)
- MATH 340 - Numerical Analysis (3)
- MATH 370 - Mathematical Model Building (3)

You may be able to use an adviser-approved course not on this list as an Upper Division CS Elective. Such a course must be at least 3 units and directly related to your academic goals. If this interests you, discuss it with a major adviser. You may need to file a request form; see Section 5.10.

3.8.1 Elective Specializations

Students wanting for guidance in choosing electives are advised to complete one of the following Specializations. Each Elective Specialization is a curated set of Major Electives focusing on a vital branch of Computer Science.

- **Cybersecurity:** CPSC 452, 454, 455, 456, 458, and 459.
- **Data Science and Artificial Intelligence:** CPSC 375, 483, and 485; MATH 370
- **Game Development:** CPSC 386, 484, 486, and 489
- **Software Engineering:** CPSC 462, 463, 464, and 466
- **Theory:** CPSC 439, MATH 340, and MATH 370 (take MATH 250A+B as Science and Mathematics Electives to satisfy the MATH prerequisites)
- **Web and Mobile Applications:** CPSC 349, 411, 431, and 449

3.9 B.S. in Computer Science with Cybersecurity Concentration

In addition to the university and departmental requirements, the B.S. in Computer Science with Cybersecurity Concentration requires the completion of the following courses: CPSC 456 (Network Security Fundamentals) AND Three electives chosen from the followings: CPSC 452 (Cryptography), CPSC 454 (Cloud Computing and Security), CPSC 455 (Web Security), CPSC 458 (Malware Analysis), and CPSC 459 (Block-chain Technologies).

3.10 General Education (GE)

The Undergraduate Studies & General Education website http://www.fullerton.edu/undergraduate/general_education/index.php describes University GE requirements in detail.

Table 3.1: Pre-2018 GE Waivers

GE area	Satisfied by
A.3. Critical Thinking (3 units)	waived for CS majors
B.1. Physical Science (3 units)	GEOL 101, PHYS 225, or CHEM 120A, part of Science and Mathematics Electives
B.2. Life Science (3 units)	waived for CS majors
B.3. Laboratory Experience	GEOL 101L or PHYS 225L, part of Science and Mathematics Electives
B.4. Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (3 units)	MATH 150A, part of Mathematics Requirements
B.5. Implications and Explorations of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (3 units)	MATH 338, part of Mathematics Requirements
D.2. World Civilizations and Cultures (3 units)	waived for CS majors who take HIST 110A to satisfy C.4
D.5. Explorations in Social Sciences (3 units)	waived for CS majors
E. Lifelong Learning and Self Development (3 units)	waived for CS majors
Total: 24 units, 9 categories	

Beginning in Fall 2018, CSUF students are ordinarily required to take at least 48 units and 18 categories of GE courses. CS majors meet some of these requirements through their required courses, and some requirements are waived for CS majors. This leaves 27 units and 10 categories which must be satisfied by additional courses.

In addition, CSUF students are required to take at least 6 units of GE at the upper-division (300/400) level. 4 of these are satisfied by MATH 338, so at least 2 of your additional GE units must be upper-division. The following two table lists the remaining GE categories, and a suggested course for each category.

TIP

Effective Fall 2017, upper-division GE courses can only be taken by students at upper-division class standing.

TIP

To conserve units, make sure that the course you take for category C.3 (pre-2018) or C.4 (2018 and later) is upper-division and also satisfies category Z. Z-category courses are marked with an asterisk on the GE course page.

TIP

Catalog years Fall 2015 through Spring 2018, CS majors *must* satisfy GE area D.1 with EGCE/CP/EE/ME 401. Starting in Fall 2018, CS majors may use any D.1 course.

Table 3.2: Fall 2018 and Later GE Waivers

GE area	Satisfied by
A.3. Critical Thinking (3 units)	waived for CS majors
B.1. Physical Science (3 units)	GEOL 101, PHYS 225, or CHEM 120A, part of Science and Mathematics Electives
B.2. Life Science (3 units)	waived for CS majors
B.3. Laboratory Experience	GEOL 101L or PHYS 225L, part of Science and Mathematics Electives
B.4. Mathematics and Quantitative Reasoning (3 units)	MATH 150A, part of Mathematics Requirements
B.5. Implications and Explorations of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (3 units)	MATH 338, part of Mathematics Requirements
D.4. Explorations in Social Sciences (3 units)	waived for CS majors
E. Lifelong Learning and Self Development (3 units)	waived for CS majors
Total: 18 units, 6 categories	

Table 3.3: Pre-2018 GE Requirements & Suggestions

GE area	Suggested Course
A.1. Oral Communications (3 units)	HCOM 102 Public Speaking (3)
A.2. Written Communications (3 units)	ENGL 101 - Beginning College Writing (3)
C.1. Introduction to Art (3 units)	ART 101 - Introduction to Art (3) (many alternatives)
C.2. Introduction to Humanities (3 units)	LING 106 - Language and Linguistics (3); many alternatives
C.3. Explorations of Arts and Humanities (3 units)	MUS 303 - World Music (3); C.1 is prerequisite; many alternatives
C.4. Origins of World Civilization (3 units)	HIST 110A - World Civilizations to the 16th Century (3)
D.1. Introduction to Social Sciences (3 units)	EGCE/CP/EE/ME 401; MATH 150A is prerequisite; must be 401 specifically
D.3. American History, Institutions and Values (3 units)	AMST 201 - Introduction to American Studies (3); many alternatives
D.4. American Government (3 units)	POSC 100 - American Government (3)
Z. Cultural Diversity	already satisfied by MUS 303 above
Total: 27 units, 10 categories	

Table 3.4: 2018 and later GE Requirements & Suggestions

GE area	Suggested Course
A.1. Oral Communications (3 units)	HCOM 102 Public Speaking (3)
A.2. Written Communications (3 units)	ENGL 101 - Beginning College Writing (3)
C.1. Introduction to Art (3 units)	ART 101 - Introduction to Art (3); many alternatives
C.2. Introduction to Humanities (3 units)	LING 106 - Language and Linguistics (3); many alternatives
C.3. Origins of World Civilization (3 units)	HIST 110A - World Civilizations to the 16th Century (3)
C.4. Explorations of Arts and Humanities (3 units)	MUS 303 - World Music (3); many alternatives
D.1. Introduction to Social Sciences (3 units)	SOCI 101 - Introduction to Sociology (3) or EGCE/CP/EE/ME 401; many alternatives
D.2. American History, Institutions, and Values (3 units)	HIST 190 Survey of American History with Emphasis on Ethnic Minorities (3); many alternatives
D.3. American Government (3 units)	POSC 100 - American Government (3)
Z. Cultural Diversity	already satisfied by MUS 303 above; many alternatives
Total: 27 units, 10 categories	

3.11 Academic Requirements

Your GPA for courses required in your major must remain at or above 2.0. Grade requirements for courses are summarized below.

Course Type	Minimum Grade
Lower-Division Core	D-
Upper-Division Core	
CPSC 490 and 491	C
Mathematics Requirements	D-
Science and Mathematics Electives	
Computer Science Electives	
GE courses, including MATH 150A, MATH 338, EGCE/CP/EE/ME 401	C-

3.11.1 Grades

A repeatable grade is a “D”, “F”, or “W” grade. Students may repeat courses for which a “C-” or lower grades were earned at CSUF or other institutions. When repeating a course, the traditional grading system (“A”, “B”, “C”, etc.) shall be used (i.e. “CR”/“NC” is not an option). In computing the grade-point average, only the most recently earned grades and grade points shall be used for the first 16 units of repeated. This is called grade forgiveness, yet the original grade shall remain on your academic record.

In the case of any repetition beyond the 16-unit limit or in courses for which a C or better grade was awarded, both grades are considered in computing grade-point averages. Students may be permitted to repeat an additional 12 units in addition to the 16 units for which grade forgiveness is permitted. This process is by petition through Admissions & Records and you must seek the support of an academic advisor and the department chair. The repeat grade shall not

replace the original grade. Both grades shall be calculated in the student's overall grade-point average.

Students earning a grade of "D-" (grade-point 0.7) or better have earned a passing grade and will earn the units towards their degree. Students must have a grade-point average of 2.0 or greater to earn a degree.

Students are strongly advised to repeat courses that lay the foundation for their education such as their lower- and upper-division core courses. In circumstances where a student earns a grade between "D-" and "C+" due to poor health, difficulties outside of the classroom, or other circumstances that impacted the student's ability to succeed, the student is strongly recommended to meet with an academic advisor and determine in consultation with the advisor if not repeating the class is in the student's best interest.

4

The CS Minor

There is strong demand for expertise in programming, data representation, and computational principles. The rise of the web; digital music, film, and humanities; and other interdisciplinary fields shows that a CS Minor can complement any field of study.

To select Computer Science as your minor, visit the CS office and fill out a Request for Minor Objective form.

4.1 Minor Requirements at a Glance

The requirements for the CS minor are detailed in the University Catalog

https://catalog.fullerton.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=61&poid=28641&returnto=7397

You are required to complete at least 15 units of computer science coursework (ordinarily 5 courses). A minimum six of the 15 units for the minor must be upper-division (300-/400-level) courses and completed at CSUF. Courses may not include CPSC 311, CPSC 315 or those numbered CPSC 491-CPSC 499.

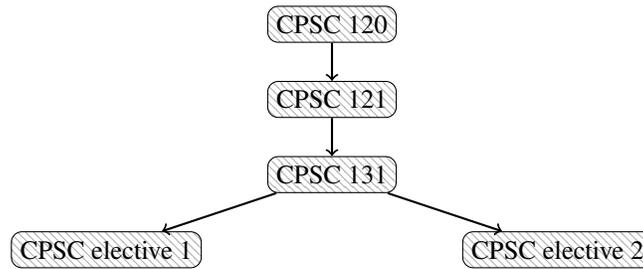
At least 12 units, including the minimum 6 units of upper division course work, must be courses that are not being used to fulfill requirements for your major.

The following are prerequisites for most upper-division Computer Science courses. It is recommended that Computer Science minors complete them first. Other CPSC courses may require additional prerequisites.

- CPSC 120 - Introduction to Programming (3)
- CPSC 121 - Object-Oriented Programming (3)
- CPSC 131 - Data Structures (3)

If you count those courses toward your minor, you will still need to complete 6 units of upper-division Computer Science courses at CSUF. You may have to take additional courses to meet the prerequisites for your CS courses. The upper-division courses that are available to students after successfully completing CPSC 131 are CPSC 313, CPSC 323, CPSC 332, CPSC 335, CPSC 349, CPSC 351, CPSC 353, and CPSC 386, CPSC 411, and CPSC 485. If a student completes MATH 270B or MATH 280, CPSC 439 is an option.

4.2 Minor Prerequisite Tree



4.3 For Majors in Related Fields

As stated above, at least 12 units, including the minimum 6 units of upper division course work, must be courses that are not being used to fulfill requirements for your major. This has implications on students whose major includes some CPSC courses.

Computer Engineering Major and Computer Science Minor

The Computer Engineering major includes CPSC 120, 121, 131 and 351, so none of these count toward the 12-unit requirement. A Computer Engineering major may count only 3 of these units toward a Computer Science minor. To complete the minor they must pass at least 12 additional units of CPSC courses that are distinct from their major. Altogether, a Computer Engineering major must usually pass a total of 24 units of CPSC course work to complete a Computer Science minor.

Electrical Engineering Major and Computer Science minor

The Electrical Engineering major includes CPSC 120, so CPSC 120 does not count toward the 12-unit requirement. However, the remaining 12 units of minor courses ordinarily do not count toward the Electrical Engineering major, so Electrical Engineering majors typically only need to pass 15 units of CPSC courses to complete a Computer Science minor.

Information Systems and Decision Sciences and Computer Science Double Majors

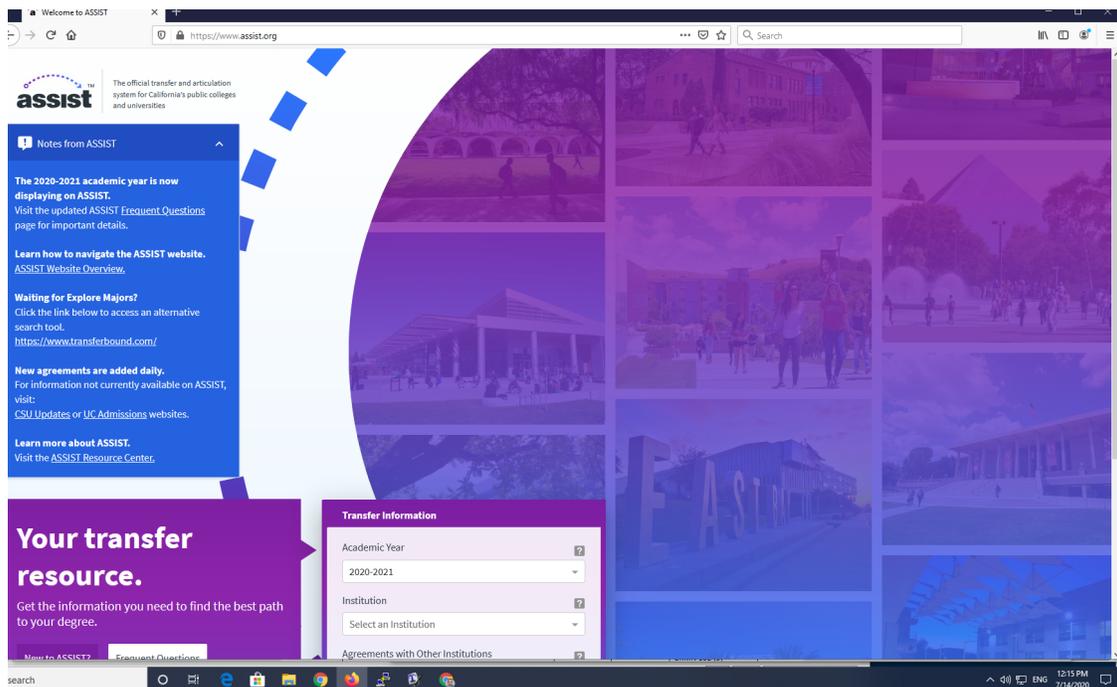
The Information Systems and Decision Sciences major includes ISDS 309, which is not equivalent to any CPSC course.

5

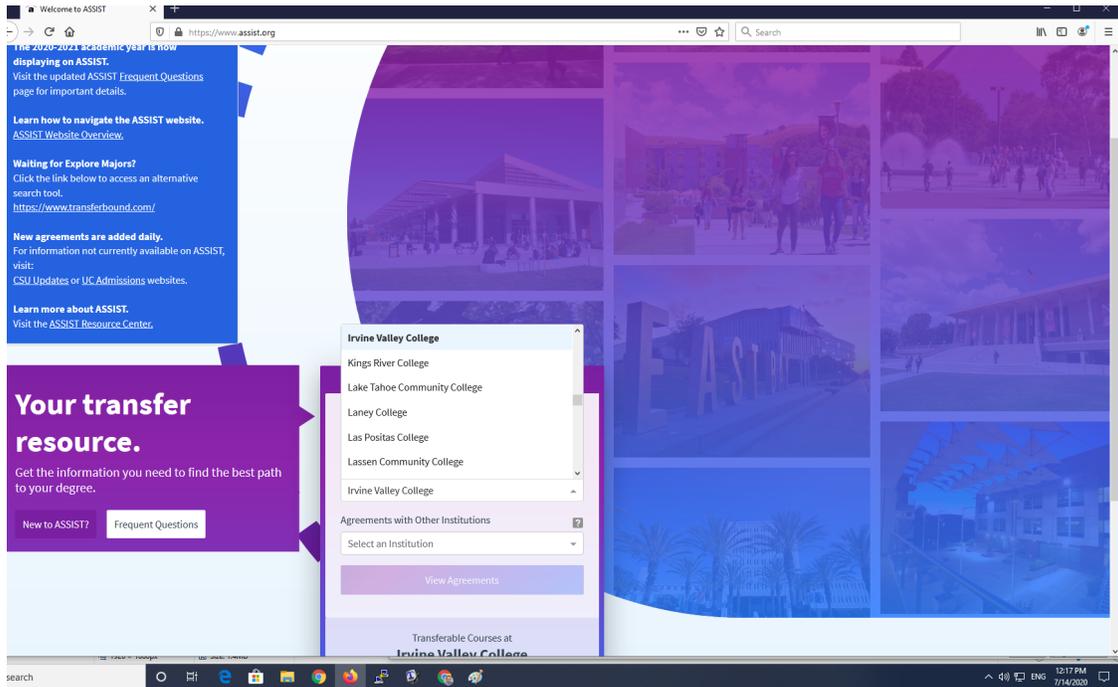
Alternative Pathways

5.1 Transfer

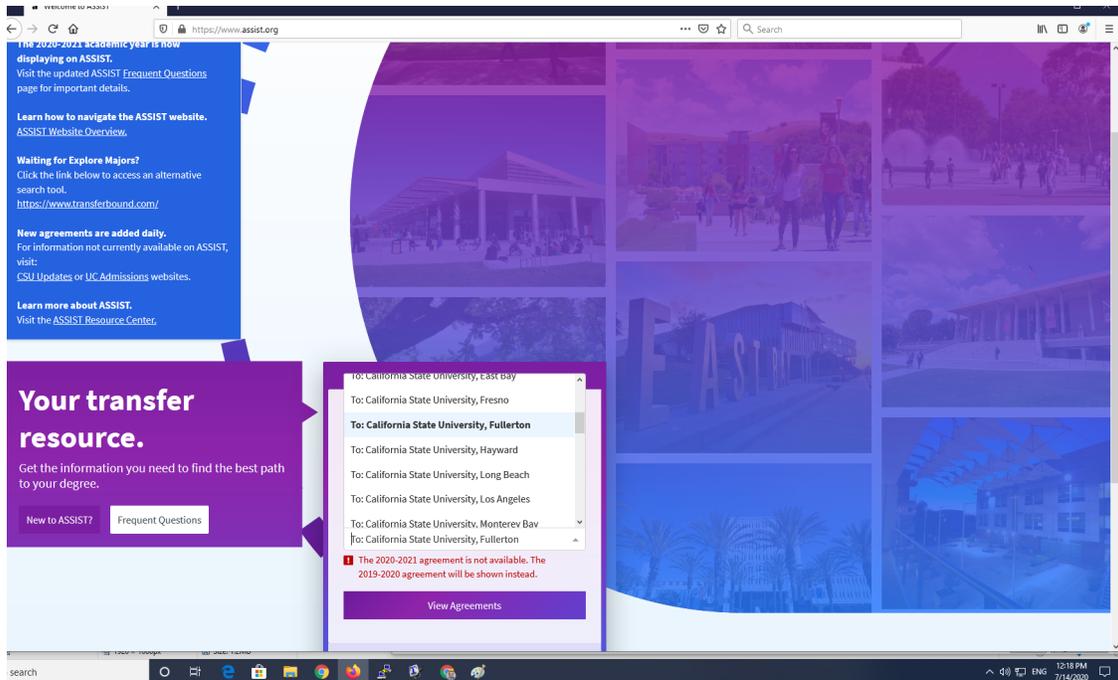
If you are a transfer student from a California Community College, you should refer to [assist.org](http://www.assist.org). A department adviser can help you with these equivalencies and give the required approval. Transfer courses cannot be applied toward the major or accepted as prerequisites until they are recorded in the Titan Degree Audit (TDA) system. You should have your official transcripts sent to the office of Admissions and Records; see <http://csufcs.com/admissions> for more information. To find articulation agreements in the [assist.org](http://www.assist.org) database, start by loading the web page <http://www.assist.org>, as shown below.



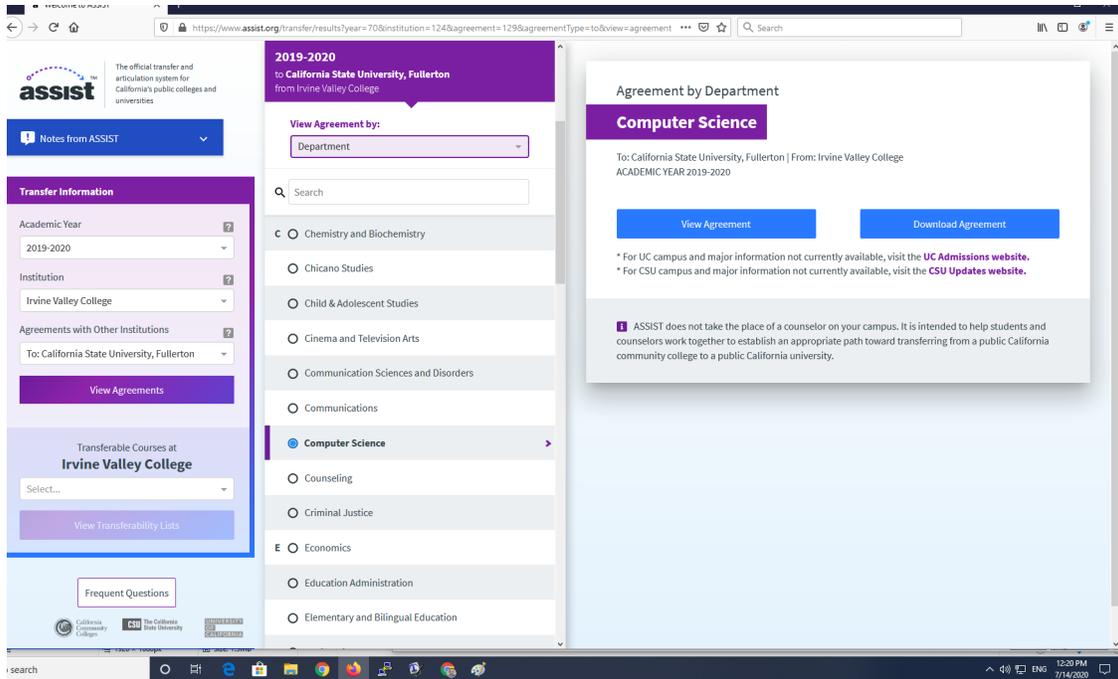
Select the institution you'd like to transfer *from*; in this example we will use Irvine Valley College (IVC).



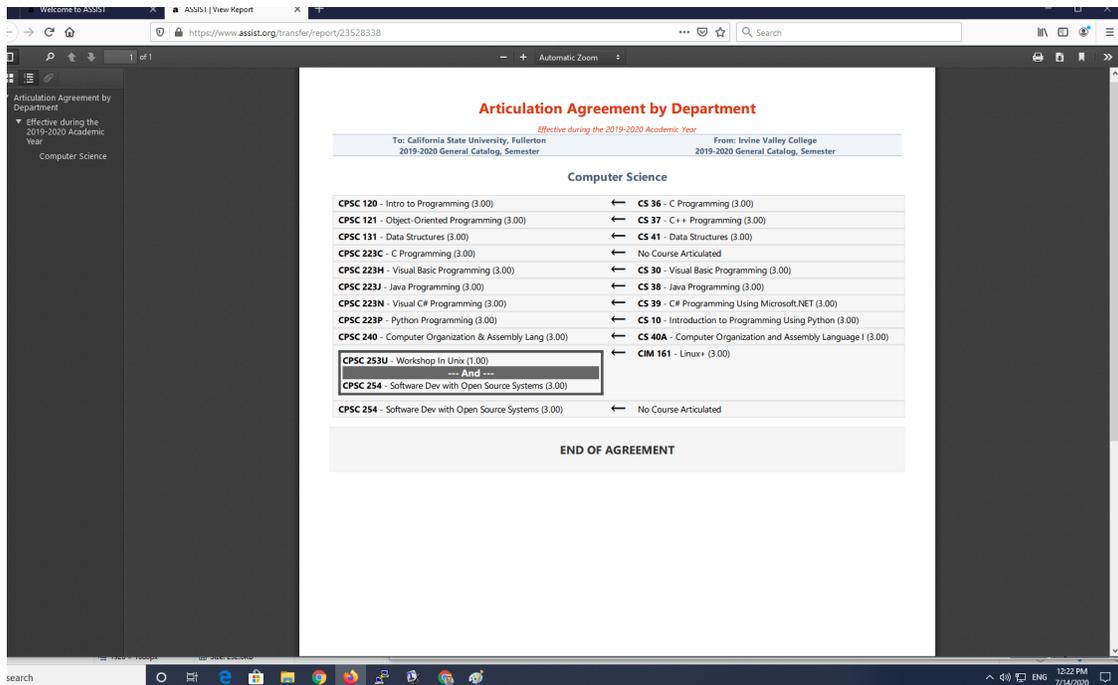
Then indicate that you are transferring *to* CSUF.



Finally, indicate that you are interested in courses relevant to the Computer Science Department.



The text within the scroll bars shows established articulations between CSUF and IVC. For instance, IVC CS 36 is equivalent to CSUF CPSC 120.



If you explore the page, you will see that IVC offers equivalents for all of the required lower-division CS courses. IVC CS 36, 37, 41, 38, 40A, and 40B articulate to CPSC 120, 121, 131, 223J, and 240, which are the entirety of the Lower-

Division Core courses. IVC MATH 3A, 3B, 30, and 31 articulate to CSUF MATH 150A, 150B, 270A, and 270B, which are all Mathematics Requirements except MATH 338. IVC PHYS 4A, PHYS 4B, and MATH 4A articulate to CSUF PHYS 225, 225L, 226, 226L, and MATH 250A, which together satisfy the Science and Mathematics Electives requirement.

5.2 Computer Science Placement Examination

Our courses CPSC 120 and CPSC 121 cover computer programming. If you are proficient in this material, but do not have academic credit, you may attempt to establish your proficiency and skip one or both courses by taking the Computer Science Placement Examination. If you have taken CPSC 120, 121, or 131 at CSUF, you are not eligible to take the Placement Examination.

The date, time, and location of Placement Examinations are given in the Department Placement Exams section of the Registration Guide for the current term. You can find Registration Guides at <http://records.fullerton.edu/registration/registration.php>

5.3 Missing CPSC 120 or 121

If you bypass CPSC 120 by passing the Computer Science Placement Examination, you will be short 3 units in the Lower Division Core major requirement. Likewise, if you bypass both CPSC 120 and 121, you will be short 6 units. Some uncommon transfer situations can also cause you to be short on units, for instance if you transfer from a school on the quarter system.

If you are short on Lower Division Core units, you will need to earn substitute units by taking extra units of CPSC 223 and/or Computer Science Major Electives (listed in Section 3.8).

5.4 Advanced Placement (AP)

If you took the Computer Science AP exam and scored well, you may be able to get credit for CPSC 120, or both 120 and 121. See the Credit by Advanced Placement Chart https://www.fullerton.edu/aac/docs/Credit_By_EXAM_AP_CLEP_IB.pdf

5.5 Internships

Learning takes place in many settings, not just the classroom. When you complete your educational career and are entering the professional job market for the first time, extensive professional experience can be highly beneficial. For this reason, the University and the Computer Science Department maintain an active internship program as a service to all students interested in obtaining employment while still in school.

Academic internships bear credit at CSUF. Students enroll in an internship course and complete course requirements. The number of units you receive depends on the number of hours you complete at your internship site.

Hours at Internship Site	Units
40–60 hours	1 unit
80–100 hours	2 units
120–150 hours	3 units

An academic internship is a work-learning partnership between a student, the university, and a host company or organization that bears a direct relationship to a student’s major and professional goals. EGGN 495 is a “supervision only” class. There are no class meetings. Students will receive a letter grade at the end of the semester based on their performance in the internship project. As far as the coursework is concerned, all that is required is that students complete the internship with the company and submit a final report by the end of the semester. The company name and the project supervisor’s name must be included in the report. The report does not have to be approved/signed by the company. Students should address the following items in the report:

1. Details of the project.
2. Tasks the student was primarily responsible for.
3. What the student learned from the project he/she completed.
4. How the project benefited the student from an academic standpoint.

Benefits of the internship program in Computer Science include:

- Industrial work experience.
- Job placement assistance from the Center for Internships & Community Engagement (CICE).
- Up to 3 units of credit.

We recommend that you consider an internship when you reach junior or senior status. To register for an internship, follow the instructions at CICE’s website (<http://www.fullerton.edu/cice/students/internships.php>).

5.6 International Students

International students must obtain a *CPT I-20* form from the International Education and Exchange office in UH-244. Check with IEE for admissible dates prior to completing the CICE Registration.

5.7 ROTC

Computer Science majors interested in joining the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program should schedule a long appointment (30 minutes) with an advisor in their freshman year to map out the complete study plan. Prior to the meeting, the student must obtain the proper documents from ROTC office located in MS-101 (Military Science Building room 101) and bring those documents with them to the advising session.

5.8 Independent Study

You may take CPSC 499 Independent Study as an Upper Division CS Elective. This course allows you to pursue a topic that is not covered by any regular course, under the supervision of a faculty advisor. All independent study applications must be approved by the study's faculty advisor and department chair by the end of the semester prior to the proposal's start date. That means independent study proposals for the Fall are due in by the end of the previous Spring semester, and proposals for the Spring are due in the previous Fall semester.

You must submit an Independent Study Application to the department office, which will supply the form. As stated on the form, the Application must be accompanied by a study plan which includes the study's objective(s), the study's outcome(s), a 16 week study plan, the basis for evaluation, and the date(s) that student work is due. A template is available at

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Dqpak9qkBJtKYINJKFPd9aZoo62BEWLJNjw1h9VUDeQ/edit#heading=h.4fv461fa56cv>

You may take up to three units per semester, and apply a maximum of six units towards the degree. You will not be able to register for this course until the Department grants you permission to do so. You should contact the Department to verify that this has been done.

Graduate students may not enroll in CPSC 499. Graduate students interested in self-directed study should consider CPSC 597, 598, or 599 instead.

5.9 Petitioning for Classes

When a class is closed because all the seats in the class are full, a student may petition to add the course once the semester begins. This is where a student attends the class and places his or her name on the paper waiting list that the instructor passes out in class. The Titan Online waiting lists, also called the *electronic waiting lists*, have no impact on the petitioning process and the Department's paper waiting lists. The paper waiting lists are returned to the CS Department Office and the Department attempts to enroll as many students as possible, giving priority to those closest to graduation. This process does not guarantee enrolling in the desired course.

Students are encouraged to attend as many classes as possible to maximize the number of waiting lists their name appears on. This signals to the Department office that you are able to attend the course. The use of proxies (asking friends to attend the class for you) is prohibited and is considered an act of academic dishonesty.

5.10 Request Forms

The TDA software system usually does a good job of automatically tracking your completion of major and minor requirements. Unfortunately, though, it may mishandle exceptional circumstances, such as a transfer from a university on the quarter system. If your TDA is inaccurate, you need to ask the Department to correct your TDA manually.

There are three forms that you can use to request that the Department adjust your TDA.

1. Use the *Domestic Course Articulation Request* to ask the Department whether courses from another college or university in the United States can count toward Computer Science major or minor requirements.

2. Use the *International Course Articulation Request* to ask whether courses from a college or university in a different country can count toward Computer Science major or minor requirements.
3. Use the *Undergraduate Course Reallocation Request* form to ask the Department to reallocate a course that appears on your TDA which does not appear in the correct category. This may happen if you have taken an advisor-approved elective which was not automatically recognized by the TDA software, you have changed catalog years, or courses transferred from another institution appear uncatagorized or the incorrect category. Another common case is when you take a course that was created after your catalog year. For example, CS 223C and the cybersecurity courses are new courses that do not appear on the 2007 or 2011 TDAs. Use *Undergraduate Course Reallocation Request* to count these courses towards your degree.

Blank forms are available at <http://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/cs/resources/documents.php>, or as hard-copies in the Department office. To file a request, submit a completed hard-copy form to the Department office. The request will typically be processed within ten business days. The outcome of the request will be communicated to the applicant through an Advising Note in the applicant's TDA. The Department Chair or designee has sole discretion to approve or deny these requests and those decisions are final and non-negotiable.

6

Advisement

It can be frustrating to find out that you took a class that wasn't useful for your course of study. Not being able to take a class when you want because of a needed prerequisite is even worse—it slows your progress and can delay your graduation. To avoid problems like these, the University offers advisement counseling to all students. This is your opportunity to review your progress toward your degree and to discuss electives that match your career goals.

Developing the skills in identifying and connecting with formal and informal advisors and mentors will benefit you not only during your time at CSUFbut also in your future career. Set a goal for yourself to find mentors who will support you and keep you motivated on your path through the university.

6.1 General Advice

Any student who wishes to discuss any concern may contact the assistant deans of the college. Assistant deans are student advocates who will help you navigate the university's policies and procedures and assist with resolving any conflict.

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Carlos Santana, CS-206A, (657) 278-4407, csantana@fullerton.edu

6.2 Major Advisement

Students may seek major advising from major advisors in the computer science department and through the ECS Student Success Center.

The Student Success Center on the second floor of the Computer Science Building can answer many of your questions regarding General Education as well. They are located in room CS 201. Their phone number is 657-278-3879. Their web site is <https://www.fullerton.edu/ecs/resources/StudentSuccessCenter.php> Computer Science department advisors are members of the faculty and you may schedule an appointment to see one by contacting the department office. The contact information for the department is in Section 1.2.

6.3 Required Advisement

The College of Engineering and Computer Science places a registration hold on all undergraduate students once a year to ensure the student meets with a department advisor. You will not be able to register for any courses until you consult with a department advisor and the hold is subsequently removed.

Students who are in good academic standing and have the last two digits of their CWID ending in an odd number are required to complete mandatory advisement in the Fall term. Students in good academic standing and have the last two digits of their CWID ending in an even number are required to complete mandatory advisement during the Spring term.

Freshmen and sophomore students must see an advisor in the ECS Student Success Center to lift the registration hold. Junior and senior students must see one of the department's major advisors to lift the registration hold.

Probation students are required to complete mandatory advisement every semester regardless of odd/even CWIDS.

6.4 General Education (GE) Advisement

The University encourages all students to seek GE advisement, each semester, well in advance of registration. You may obtain information about the CSUF GE curriculum and degree requirements by visiting the Academic Advisement Center in UH-123B.

6.5 First-time Freshmen

You should make an appointment to see the department adviser as early as possible. It is very important that you understand the program and the sequence in which you should take courses.

6.6 Career Advising

The CSUF Career Center is online at <http://www.fullerton.edu/career/students/>. You should make an appointment to see Paula Verdugo, paverdugo@fullerton.edu (657)-278-3121. She is the ECS Career Specialist.

6.7 Studying Abroad

The Study Abroad Office, <http://international.fullerton.edu/study-abroad>, can connect you with international opportunities that will fit into your study plan. The office is located in Titan Hall 1123.

6.8 Transfer Students

You should make an advisement appointment as early as possible. The department adviser can answer your questions about transfer credit for general education courses and can evaluate courses that apply to your major. Please bring any transcripts or grade reports you have, official or not, to this appointment. A catalog from your prior institution may be useful, particularly from those outside the Orange County area.

6.9 Nearing Graduation (Within One Year)

After completing 90 units of coursework, you are eligible to apply for graduation. The only way to apply for graduation is online through the TITAN Online Student Center. You cannot graduate without a completed Grad Check.

6.10 Probation

If you are on probation, it is definitely time to see an adviser. Until you do so, a hold will be in place on your file, preventing you from registering in classes. Your adviser will discuss with you the problems that led to your probation and review strategies you should take to get off probation. Make your advisement appointment early so your registration is not held up.

6.11 Peer Advising & Clubs

There are lots of student clubs on this campus for all sorts of interests. Visit <http://www.fullerton.edu/sll/involvement/clubs/> and look at the different clubs that are at CSU Fullerton. You start your own club if you don't see a club that aligns to your interests.

Some clubs that are computer science clubs are ACM, ACM-W, OSS, Machine Learning club.

7

Progress Flowcharts

The following flowchart is an examples of semester-by-semester class plan through the B.S. program. This plan completes all major requirements in 8 semesters (4 years), satisfy all prerequisites along the way, and follow all tips in this Handbook.

Generic Four Year Plan

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
	CPSC 120	CPSC 121	CPSC 131	223	CPSC 351	CPSC 335	CPSC 323	CPSC 315
	CPSC 270A	MATH 270B	MATH 250A	CPSC 240	CPSC 353	CPSC 471	CPSC 481	CPSC 491
	CPSC 150A	MATH 150B	GE C.3 HIST 110A	MATH 250B	CPSC 332	CPSC 362	CPSC 490	CPSC Elective 4
	GE A.1 HCOM 102	GE C.1 ART 101	GE D.1 SOCL 110	PHYS 225+L	MATH 338	CPSC Elective 2	CPSC Elective 3	CPSC Elective 5
	GE A.2 ENGL 101	GE C.2 PHIL 100	GE D.2 HIST 190	GE D.3 POSC 100	CPSC Elective 1	GE MUS 303		

Color Legend:

Core Course

Math Req.

Science/Math Elect.

Track Course

Gen. Ed.

8

Credits and Revision History

Copyright 2015–2020, Department of Computer Science, California State University, Fullerton.

This document has been maintained by Sandra Boulanger, David Falconer, Mikhail Gofman, Michael Shafae, and Kevin Wortman.

Last revision by Shawn X. Wang.

Index

ABET, 8, 13
accreditation, 8
address, 8
advanced placement (AP), 28
advisement
 general, 33
 major, 33
 required, 34

career, 34
contact information, 8
CS electives, 16

department office, 8

e-mail, 8
electives, 16

fax number, 8
freshmen, 34

GE, 34
general education, 18, 34
grad check, 35
graduation, 35

peer advising, 35
phone number, 8
placement examination, 28
postal address, 8
probation, 35
Program Educational Objectives (PEOs), 9
Program Outcomes, 9

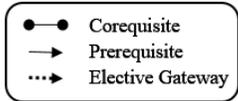
request form, 18, 30

study abroad, 34

TDA, 30
telephone number, 8
tips, 9
transfer, 25, 35

unit limit, 14

website, 8



Undergraduate Core Courses

Including Math and Science Courses

