Students who major in computer science at DePauw study the design and development of software and hardware to solve problems in business, scientific and social contexts. DePauw offers first-rate laboratories and facilities that enable students with all levels of computing experience to engage in high-quality courses and innovative application.

Even more important, DePauw computer science students are taught by skilled faculty members who are committed to their students’ success. Students develop close relationships with faculty members, who are accessible for consultation and involve students in their research.

Computer science majors build problem-solving skills by identifying problems and devising technological solutions. Students learn how to think critically and to assess why some solutions may not work. They improve written and oral communication skills and learn to collaborate and work in teams, as industry, academia and research require.

Students also have access to tutoring; may serve as assistant teachers in laboratories; and have guided opportunities to perform outreach to the community by rebuilding computers, teaching programming to children and helping children build robots.

DePauw is committed to increasing the underrepresented in computer science – that is, women, African Americans and Hispanic/Latinx. It ranks as one of the most successful institutions of higher learning in the country in terms of attracting women to major in computer science: While women account for about 17 percent of computer science and informatics majors across the country, 47 percent of the computer science majors in DePauw’s Class of 2017 were women.

The Women in Computer Science organization is one of a number of initiatives intended to ease women’s pursuit of a computer science major. The department recently secured two grants to support creation of a Computing Opportunities for Students of Color group.
STUDENT PROFILE

GABRIELLE “GABBY” COFFING ’19

Senior Gabrielle “Gabby” Coffing, who double-majors in computer science and cellular and molecular biology, won the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, one of the most prestigious undergraduate scholarships in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in America.

Gabby, who is a member of the women’s track and field team, plans to pursue a doctoral degree in computational biology or bioinformatics so that she may teach and conduct research at the university level and demonstrate to students how computer science enriches biological research.

FACULTY


Steven Bogaerts, Ph.D., Indiana University. Students achieved third place in a national artificial intelligence game competition in 2016. Received a $24,000 cloud-computing grant in 2017-18.

Chad Byers, Ph.D., Michigan State University. Won the Wylie-Condit Scholarship for promising computer science majors at DePauw. 2008 DePauw graduate. Nominated for best paper at the 2011 Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference. Awarded the Carl V. Page Memorial Graduate Fellowship at Michigan State.

Douglas Harms, Ph.D., Ohio State University. Won DePauw’s Exemplary Teaching Award for 2015-16. Leads the Community Technology Enhancement Program, a DePauw-affiliated organization that collects and refurbishes computers and provide them to Putnam County residents.

Brian Howard, Ph.D., Stanford University. Co-principal investigator for six years on a $505,000 National Science Foundation grant providing research experiences for undergraduates. Received $15,000 IBM Eclipse Innovation Grant.

Scott Thede, Ph.D., Purdue University. Served as principal investigator or co-principal investigator for nine years on a National Science Foundation grant of more than $650,000 providing research opportunities for undergraduates.

Khadija Stewart, Ph.D., Southern Illinois University. Co-principal investigator on a $25,000 grant to start the Computing Opportunities for Students of Color organization. Students won best undergraduate research poster at the 2017 Midstates Conference for Undergraduate Research in Computer Science and Mathematics; the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges in 2010; and the Council for African Americans in the Mathematical Sciences in 2008.

Gloria Childress Townsend, Ph.D., Indiana University. Received the 2015 Making a Difference Award from the Association for Computing Machinery for her commitment to women students and the 2007 Career Achievement Award from the IU School of Informatics. Principal investigator on two National Science Foundation grants totalling $1.7 million.

GRADUATE INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED

- Clemson University
- Columbia University
- Dartmouth College
- Georgia Tech University
- Indiana University
- Michigan State University
- Northwestern University
- Purdue University
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- University of Michigan
- University of Oregon
- University of Texas, Austin

EXAMPLES OF INTERNSHIPS

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