

Getting a Degree/Certificate in...

COMPUTER and INFORMATION SCIENCES

Those employed in the field of Computer and Information Sciences have a combination of education and skills required to function effectively with various uses of computers such as programming and computer aided design tools.

What type of career can I have with this major?

Since this major is so comprehensive, you will have a variety of excellent employment opportunities.

- CAD/Computer Aided Designer
- Computer Aide
- Computer Game Programmer/Animator
- Computer Help Desk Specialist
- Computer Maintenance Technician
- Computer Scientist
- Computer Software Writer
- Computer Support Specialist
- Computer Systems Administrator
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Data Control Administrator
- Database Manager
- Electronic Maintenance Technician
- Internet Developer
- Market Research Analyst
- Multimedia Specialist
- Semiconductor Processor

Where can I work?

This profession provides you with a choice of various work environments including government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit agencies, public and private companies, and firms.

- Banking Industries
- Business Services Industries
- Computer Services Industries
- Computer Manufacturers
- Custom Software Builders
- Health Care Institutions
- Engineering Firms
- Health Care Institutions
- Hotels
- Insurance Companies
- Manufacturing Industries
- Multi-Media Firms
- Online Service Providers
- Software Manufacturers
- State and Federal Government

What type of professional organizations and resources are available in this industry?

There are many professional organizations that offer resources, articles, job opportunities, training and conference information. We suggest you visit each organization's website to gather more information and contacts in your field.

- American Society of Information Science and Technology
- Association for Computing Machinery
- Association of Information Technology Professionals
- IEEE Communications Society
- Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society
- National Workforce Center for Emerging Technologies
- Network Professional Association
- Quality Assurance Institute

What type of Computer and Information Sciences program does San Diego Mesa College offer?

The program at San Diego Mesa College relates the general knowledge of the computer with studies of specific programming languages, enabling the student to combine computer hardware and software to process data into information. Knowledge of these skills and tools will assist students seeking employment in various environments within the computer and information sciences industry, including entry-level programmer positions.

- Certificate of Performance: Computer Programming
- Certificate of Achievement: Computer and Information Sciences
- Associate in Science: Computer and Information Sciences

See college catalog for program descriptions, course titles, and areas of emphasis.

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Associates Degrees/Certificates

Getting Started

- Step 1:** [Application](#) - Start by completing the online application for admission
- Step 2:** [Orientation](#) - Complete the online New Student Orientation (Flash player required)
- Step 3:** [Assessment](#) - Visit the Assessment office to learn about English and math testing
- Step 4:** [Advisement](#) - Complete the online First Semester Planning Workshop
- Step 5:** [Registration](#) - Register for classes

While You're Taking Classes

- | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Update your resume and craft a cover letter | Attend job fairs | Conduct industry research |
| Look into volunteer/internship opportunities | Perform job searches | Think about transfer options |
- See the Transfer or Career Center for assistance*

Transfer Options

Getting Started

- Join a professional computer and information sciences association as a student member
- Identify your intended major at the university(ies) you wish to apply by carefully looking at the program descriptions. This major is also known as: "Computer Information Systems" or "Computer Science"
- Map out where you want to transfer for your computer and information science Bachelor's degree

Exploring your Emphasis/Concentration

An emphasis provides computer and information sciences majors an opportunity to explore a concentration within a broad degree. Unit requirements vary by institution. Most times declaring an emphasis is optional. Here are a few different emphases offered at surrounding universities:

- Artificial Intelligence • Bioinformatics • Computer Vision • Networked Systems • Security and Cryptography • Software Engineering

Education Planning

Fall semester 1st year (1-15 units):

- 1) Attend transfer workshops 2) Review articulation agreements 3) Map general education (GE) requirements
4) Identify 4-year institutions to apply 5) Attend a Transfer Fair 6) Meet with a counselor
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Spring semester 1st year (16-30 units):

- 1) Continue to attend transfer workshops 2) Check-in with a counselor to make sure your educational plan is on track
3) Seeking tutoring assistance in the academic skills center to keep your grades competitive
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Fall semester 2nd year (31-45 units):

- 1) Submit admissions applications to 4-year institutions: Fall for CSU/UC; Early spring for private and out-of-state institutions
2) Identify deadlines and due dates for admissions transcripts and other documents
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Spring semester 2nd year (46-60 units):

- 1) Identify deadlines and due dates for admissions transcripts and other documents 2) Submit your FAFSA between January 1st-March 1st.
3) Turn in your deposit and registration forms to the institution you decide to attend.
4) Attend the transfer orientation event(s) at your new campus 5) Complete academic coursework and transfer!
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While You're Taking Classes

- Update your resume
- Prepare a cover letter
- Complete an internship in computer and information sciences
- Build your network
- Maintain a strong GPA
- Hold a leadership position in a computer and information sciences club/society
- Find a mentor
- Conduct informational interviews with individuals in your desired position(s)
- Visit your Career Center as much as possible!