| Changing Your Major to Computer Science |

Limited resources and our desire to provide the Computer Science (CS) majors with an excellent education has made the CS change-of-major process extremely competitive. It is your responsibility to stay in contact with the CS advising staff, especially if you are confused about your eligibility or the requirements. Submit the Change of Major petition and Study Plan to the Computer Science Department during the quarter in which you finish the last of the minimum required classes for the change of major. Applicants can expect to hear back with a decision from the department 2-3 weeks after grades are posted for the term of application.

Minimum Requirements (NO Exceptions Made):

1. Complete these courses with a letter grade and on the first attempt:
   a. CMPSC 16*, CMPSC 24** and CMPSC 40 (or Math 8)**
      i. Minimum of 3.2 cumulative GPA
   b. Math 3A (or 2A), Math 3B (or 2B), Math 4A and Math 4B
      i. Minimum of 3.0 cumulative GPA
2. Never have been on academic probation at UCSB
3. Have less than 105 UCSB units completed by the end of the quarter in which you applied
   a. AP and transferable non-UC units do NOT count toward this limit
4. Complete a study plan that demonstrates you can finish the CS degree without exceeding 200 units or 5 total years of college (with 20 units or less per quarter)
5. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

*CMPSC 8 is a prerequisite for CMPSC 16, but may be waived with an AP Computer Science A score of 4-5
**Can take CMPSC 24 and CMPSC 40 (or MATH 8) concurrently

Note: CMPSC 40 has been moved from the math requirements to the CS requirements as of Spring 2019.

Policy on Transfer Courses:

A maximum of TWO courses outside of a UC campus are allowed to fulfill the change of major requirements. However, only ONE course from the programming sequence (CMPSC 16 and 24 or 40) may be taken elsewhere. If one programming course is transferred, one math course (Math 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B) maybe also be transferred. If both programming courses are taken at a UC campus, you may transfer credit for two math courses. Every change of major petition turned in Winter 2019 and following, must adhere to the TWO transfer course maximum.

For 2-year CA community college classes, you can check Assist.org. If you see the equivalent approved there, you may take the class. Once the course is finished, have your official transcripts sent to the UCSB Admissions office. The Registrar's office can take up to a quarter to process transfer work. If the transfer class is a pre-requisite for another CS course at UCSB, you will need to email the CS undergrad advisor for clearance to enroll.

NOTE: Transfer work (anything completed outside of a UC campus) will just result in completed credits. The grade does not transfer to your UCSB GPA nor will be taken into account when your petition GPA is calculated. The cumulative GPA requirements (3.2 for CS 16-24 and 3.0 for the rest) will be calculated from the courses completed on a UC campus.

For additional questions, contact the CS Undergraduate Advisor at ugradhelp@cs.ucsb.edu or (805) 893-4321. The Computer Science Department office can be found on the 2nd floor of Harold Frank Hall, in Room 2104.
Change of Major FAQ’s

Does being in a certain major or college make it “easier” to switch in?

Below are the majors who have “priority enrollment” in the CS classes needed for the change of major petition. Priority enrollment means these students have access to the classes in their 1st and 2nd pass times. Any majors not on these lists have to wait until their 3rd pass time for class registration to add these classes (or add into the waitlist if already full).

CS 8: Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Geography GIS, Math, Pre-Math, Pre-Math Sciences, Pre-Financial Math, Statistics, Statistical Sciences, and Actuarial Sciences

CS 16: Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Statistics, Statistical Sciences, and Actuarial Sciences

CS 24: Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering

CS 40: Computer Science and Computer Engineering

Can I take these classes somewhere else and transfer the credit? How will that affect the GPA requirement?

Our classes are heavily impacted so enrolling in them is usually the biggest hurdle faced in the change of major process. You can choose to take their equivalents during the summer at another 4-year institution (UC/CSU or out of state) or at a community college.

To get a 4-year school’s equivalent approved, email the CS undergrad advisor with the course information (website, syllabus, etc.) BEFORE you enroll in it. There are also some options for online courses through UCs, which you can find by clicking “Current UC Students Click Here” at UConline.edu.

For 2-year CA community college classes, you can check on Assist.org. If you see the equivalent approved there, you may take the class.

See our ‘Policy on Transfer Courses’ section on the previous page for important information regarding the number of courses which may transfer and how the classes transfer.

What does “first attempt” mean?

The first letter grade you obtain from CS 16, 24, and 40 (or MATH 8) must be a C or better to be eligible to change your major to Computer Science. If you receive a C- or lower in any of these classes, you can still re-take the course for your own GPA improvement purposes but will not be eligible to switch into the CS major.

I’m a transfer student admitted to a major in the College of Letters and Sciences. Can I switch my major (or double major) in CS?

Unfortunately, junior transfer students admitted to either the College of L&S or the College of Creative Studies are NOT eligible to switch their major to CS, nor to add CS as a second major.