



## Prospective Student FAQ

So, you're considering a Computer Science Degree from Columbia; what's next? Please be sure to read through the following frequently asked questions to assist you in making the most informed decision possible.

Is there a specific emphasis on expertise and research within the Computer Science Department at Columbia? Which areas of CS are particularly strong at Columbia?

The Department of Computer Science at Columbia has distinguished research strengths in a number of areas, including vision and computer graphics, computer and network security, networks, machine learning, computer architecture, and natural language processing. Examples of specific research groups are:

- **Graphics and User Interfaces**  
(<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/graphics/>)
- **Security** (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/security-privacy/>) and **Intrusion Detection** (<http://ids.cs.columbia.edu>)
- **Languages & Compilers** (<http://landc.cs.columbia.edu>)

- **Machine Learning** (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/machine/>)
- **Speech and Natural Language Processing**  
(<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/speech/>)
- **Network Computing** (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/networking/>)
- **Software Systems** (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/software/>)
- **Vision and Robotics** (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/vision-robotics/>)

A complete list of research groups can be found **here**  
(<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/areas/>).

Why should I pursue an undergraduate degree in Computer Science at Columbia?

What makes your Computer Science program stand out compared to other top programs and institutions?

What opportunities are there to get involved in Computer Science research as an undergraduate at Columbia?

What research, internship, and fellowships opportunities exist during the summer months, and how do I participate?

What kinds of career opportunities would this major/concentration prepare me for?

What percentage of your Computer Science graduates go on to graduate school?

How does the Computer Science program differ between the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS), Columbia College, Barnard, and General Studies?

Is it possible to do a double major with an entirely different subject (e.g., English)?

What are the differences between the Computer Science and Computer Engineering degrees?

Does the CS department process undergraduate admissions?

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**Questions? Click Here!**  
(<https://www.columbia.edu/content/admissions-offices>)

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*Updated 06/29/2023*

**Find the COVID-19 Resource Guide here (<https://news.columbia.edu/news/update-covid-19-university-guidance>).**

## Computer Science at Columbia University

The computer science department advances the role of computing in our lives through research and prepares the next generation of computer scientists with its academic programs.

Find out more about the department here ([/about](#)).

## Upcoming Events

SEP  
**26**

CSB 480

Theory Student Seminar

**Tuesday 12:30 pm**

SEP  
**29**

**Friday 12:30 pm**

CS conference room (CSB453)

Peter Manohar, Carnegie Mellon University

Semirandom CSP refutation via Kikuchi matrices: Algorithms, Certificates, and Connections

Theory Lunch

OCT  
**03**

CSB 480

Theory Student Seminar

**Tuesday 12:40 pm**

OCT  
**06**

**Friday 12:30 pm**

CS conference room (CSB453)

Sunoo Park, New York University

Theory Lunch - Sunoo Park

Theory Lunch

[View All >> \(https://www.cs.columbia.edu/calendar/\)](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/calendar/)

## In the News

# MIT Technology Review

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/the-computer-scientist-who-hunts-for-costly-bugs-in-crypto-code/?redirect=0c99d322ac4a621f0cb1bf31ffea64ba>)

**The Computer Scientist Who Hunts for Costly Bugs in Crypto Code** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/the-computer-scientist-who-hunts-for-costly-bugs-in-crypto-code/?redirect=0c99d322ac4a621f0cb1bf31ffea64ba>)

(Ronghui Gu)



(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/this-self-aware-robot-taught-itself-how-to-control-its-own-body/?redirect=2275dd724f7cd014090b808bf9f6c3c9>)

**This Self-Aware Robot Taught Itself How to Control Its Own Body** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/this-self-aware-robot-taught-itself-how-to-control-its-own-body/?redirect=2275dd724f7cd014090b808bf9f6c3c9>)

(Carl Vondrick)



([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/columbia-awarded-185-million-in-patent-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/columbia-awarded-185-million-in-patent-infringement-lawsuit/?redirect=00ff51e39830d7b7a1521ed64b5174b7)

**Columbia Awarded \$185 Million in Patent-Infringement Lawsuit** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2022/columbia-awarded-185-million-in-patent-infringement-lawsuit/?redirect=00ff51e39830d7b7a1521ed64b5174b7>)

(Salvatore Stolfo)

infringement-lawsuit/?

redirect=00ff51e39830d7b7a1521ed64b5174b7)



**Mathematicians Transcend Geometric Theory of Motion**

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e)

[redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e))

(Andrew Blumberg)

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e)

[transcend-geometric-theory-of-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e)

[motion/?](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e)

[redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/mathematicians-transcend-geometric-theory-of-motion/?redirect=5673fa940ca6c0bede69f18e4810731e))

**FINANCIAL TIMES**

**Auto-scans of phones would violate data privacy, say security experts** ([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1)

[redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1))

(Steven Bellovin)

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1)

[scans-of-phones-would-violate-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1)

[data-privacy-say-security-experts/?](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1)

[redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2021/auto-scans-of-phones-would-violate-data-privacy-say-security-experts/?redirect=2ed01b3c9d786fd4c2557ead92be01b1))

## Press Mentions

**TIME**

**How The Morning Show Rewrites the Notorious 2014 Sony Hack** ([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/how-the-morning-show-rewrites-the-notorious-2014-sony-hack/?](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/how-the-morning-show-rewrites-the-notorious-2014-sony-hack/?redirect=01cb778274fb38a72826afd84056ab79)

[redirect=01cb778274fb38a72826afd84056ab79](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/how-the-morning-show-rewrites-the-notorious-2014-sony-hack/?redirect=01cb778274fb38a72826afd84056ab79))

(Suman Jana)

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/how-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/how-the-morning-show-rewrites-the-notorious-2014-sony-hack/?redirect=01cb778274fb38a72826afd84056ab79)

the-morning-show-rewrites-the-  
notorious-2014-sony-hack/?  
redirect=01cb778274fb38a72826afd84056ab79)



**Your Résumé Isn't the Only Thing Popular Job Sites  
Evaluate** ([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/your-resume-isnt-the-only-thing-popular-job-sites-evaluate/?  
redirect=f25fb139a595563c5d6b2ebf335c354a](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/your-resume-isnt-the-only-thing-popular-job-sites-evaluate/?redirect=f25fb139a595563c5d6b2ebf335c354a))

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/your-resume-isnt-the-only-thing-popular-job-sites-evaluate/?  
redirect=f25fb139a595563c5d6b2ebf335c354a](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/your-resume-isnt-the-only-thing-popular-job-sites-evaluate/?redirect=f25fb139a595563c5d6b2ebf335c354a))



**Yes, AI Models Can Get Worse over Time**  
([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/yes-ai-models-can-get-worse-over-time/?  
redirect=bd00821a18c6554527db1cab787c273b](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/yes-ai-models-can-get-worse-over-time/?redirect=bd00821a18c6554527db1cab787c273b))  
(Kathleen McKeown, Vishal Misra)

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/yes-ai-models-can-get-worse-over-time/?  
redirect=bd00821a18c6554527db1cab787c273b](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/yes-ai-models-can-get-worse-over-time/?redirect=bd00821a18c6554527db1cab787c273b))



**Here's how AI is being used to unlock secrets still hidden in  
the human brain** (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/heres-how-ai-is-being-used-to-unlock-secrets-still-hidden-in-the-human-brain/?...>)  
(Richard Zemel)

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/heres-how-ai-is-being-used-to-unlock->

secrets-still-hidden-in-the-human-  
brain/?

Apply

redirect=4055e95b510974e140a3552097549bb7)

Columbia Undergraduate Admissions (SEAS)

(<http://undergrad.admissions.columbia.edu/learn/academiclife/engineering>)

**Gothamist**

M.S./Ph.D. Application (<https://apply.columbia.edu/apply/>)

**Does AI in NYC need restrictions? Officials hold closed-door meeting to discuss**

(<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/does-ai-in-nyc-need-restrictions-officials-hold-closed-door-meeting-to-discuss...>)

M.S. Express Application for Current Undergrads (<http://gradengineering.columbia.edu/ms-express-application-columbia-university-jeannette-wing>)

Undergraduates)

([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/does-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/2023/does-ai-in-nyc-need-restrictions-officials-hold-closed-door-meeting-to-discuss/)

ai-in-nyc-need-restrictions-officials-

CS@CU MS Bridge Program in Computer Science ([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/ms-](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/ms-bridge/)

bridge/)

hold-closed-door-meeting-to-

discuss/?

redirect=557ac481d534504f110bb8a2246504e8)

(<https://www.columbia.edu>)

## Links

Map ([https://www.cs.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/morningsidemap\\_2015aug-7.pdf](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/morningsidemap_2015aug-7.pdf))

School of Engineering And Applied Science (<http://engineering.columbia.edu/>)

Data Science Institute (<http://datascience.columbia.edu/>)

CRF (<http://www.cs.columbia.edu/crf>)

MICE (<https://mice.cs.columbia.edu>)

ASCENT Program (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/ascent/>)

Copyright FAQ (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/resources/copyright/>)

CS Advising (<https://www.cs.columbia.edu/academic-advising/>)

## Contact

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[Contact Us \(/contact\)](/contact)

[Directions \(https://www.cs.columbia.edu/resources/directions/\)](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/resources/directions/)

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[Webmaster \(mailto:webmaster@cs.columbia.edu\)](mailto:webmaster@cs.columbia.edu)

[Privacy Policy \(https://www.cs.columbia.edu/privacy-policy/\)](https://www.cs.columbia.edu/privacy-policy/)