

## **5 Study Tips that Will Make You a Successful Computer Science Student**

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Whether you enrolled for a Bachelor's or a Master's degree in Computer Science, you want to be a top student and prove you constantly advance your computing skills. Regardless of your specialization, computer science degrees are challenging, even if you are a super tech fanatic and passionate. So how do you deal and work with a significant amount of new information you learn every day?

Here are five basic tricks you need to keep in mind if you want to be a successful computer science student, if not, the best in your class.

### **1. Computer science classes are more focused on practical skills**

Most IT courses are not all theory compared to courses for other types of degrees, like sociology or economics. Even if computer science and information technology degrees include theoretical classes, their approach is far more practical.

For instance, right after a theoretical class, you will have to apply that knowledge through practical exercises in a computer laboratory.

Sure, you may have to work on essays, but they will always have to include practical work or projects - both successfully combined, with logical explanations for each step and chapter from your work.

### **2. Studying the night before a deadline will NOT work**

Try to get your assignments done well in advance of deadlines, ideally have them ready a week in advance. Otherwise, you'll just get tired, your code won't work, and you'll fail the assignment.

Computer science and IT is one of those areas where it is absolutely necessary to keep working throughout the semester because sometimes you'll need to take a break to get some clarity as to why something

isn't working. So do yourself a favor and work all the way through the semester. That doesn't mean you should spend every minute studying; it means you'll have to be constant with your learning progress throughout the year. You'll do far better this way.

### **3. Your course will not teach you everything**

All computer sciences and IT courses rock. However, they won't cover all the skills you might need in a job. For example, if you're planning to go into software development, you might learn a considerable amount in a few languages, but you may need to go beyond that for work, learning more of a language, or learning a language from scratch! It might be a good idea to look for introductions to online programming languages, some of which are even offered for free, such as Python, MATLAB, Java, and much more.

So schedule your time properly and after completing your core assignments hit Google, and find out what type of computing skills are tech companies looking for. Particularly, look into further details on the exact requirements at those specific companies you dream of working for.

You could also make little websites or programs just for yourself, to test your abilities and push yourself further.

If you're considering studying computer science at top-ranked universities, check programmes offered by some of the best universities ranked by The Times Higher Education.

### **4. Don't be a lone wolf**

Being able to work on your own and independently motivate yourself is great, and you'll need that. But don't forget that you're not alone, and it's highly unlikely you'll be alone in the workplace as well. You're likely to be in a team.

And team working takes some skills you'll need to brush up on and work constantly. Once you'll find a good study group, you'll surely enjoy to meet with your peers, share ideas and work on interesting projects. After all, that's just the classical way innovation starts: with a few genius minds that come together and work on a new invention until it becomes trademark.

#### **5. Remember: You still have a life**

A computer science degree may seem pretty daunting and demands you learn more, study more, do more. But don't forget to live your life. Have fun, meet up with friends, go clubbing or travelling, get involved in some student activities.

Your studies are critical, but they shouldn't be the only thing in your life. Going out and having fun will refresh your mind and increase your grades. Relax, have fun, and good luck!