

user programmer in a programming language. For example, here is a simple program written in C programming language –

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
int main() {  
printf("Hello, World!  
");  
return 0;  
}
```

A computer program is a collection of instructions that performs a specific task when executed by a computer. When we compare a program with a process, we can conclude that a process is a dynamic instance of a computer program.

A part of a computer program that performs a well-defined task is known as an algorithm. A collection of computer programs, libraries and related data are referred to as a software.

### Process Life Cycle

When a process executes, it passes through different states. These stages may differ in different operating systems, and the names of these states are also not standardized.

In general, a process can have one of the following five states at a time.

S.N.	State & Description
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1	Start
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This is the initial state when a process is first started/created.

2	Ready
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The process is waiting to be assigned to a processor. Ready processes are waiting to have the processor allocated to them by the operating system so that they can run. Process may come into this state after Start state or while running it but interrupted by the scheduler to assign CPU to some other process