

My favorite class this semester has been my Intro to Computer Science class. A common misconception is that computer science and information technology and software engineering are all the same thing. Actually, they are three separate fields and even though they share some obvious key similarities, even the pay rates are noticeably different.

Software engineers, for example, end up using extensive math skills and in depth knowledge regarding computer science to make a program constructed for a very specific, precise purpose. At first, though, the profession is extremely client-based, especially in comparison to computer science and information technology jobs, because the engineer needs to clearly understand the needs of the client in order to make the appropriate software for them. Evidently, software engineers are in high demand, and thus, starting salaries for the big tech companies are more than \$100,000.

Information technology professionals, on the other hand, are the people that are in charge of keeping a computer functional. Mom, these are the people you call at work when your phone is running slow because you have 20 apps open at once. The IT desk is there to troubleshoot when something goes wrong in a computer, but also monitor trends in how computers store data and communicate it between multiple users. Salaries certainly vary by location and credential level but the average IT consultant starts at around \$70,000.

Unlike software engineering and information technology, computer science refers to an entire field of study, which branches out into multiple different possible job positions. Computer science can be divided a number of ways, but some typical divisions include hardware systems, software systems, scientific computing, data management, memory systems, artificial intelligence, microprogramming, and computer graphics... just to name a few. It makes perfect sense that computer science professions would be some of the highest paying, with most averages near the \$100,000 mark.

Within computer science, some of the more advanced professions include database management, network architecture, and business intelligence analysis. A business intelligence analyst gathers information from servers within one company while pulling information from competitors and cross checking industry trends to advise potential future business decisions. A network architect is supposed to make a network for any range of users to communicate cohesively on one interface. While a position like database management could be made up of a group of individuals working together, the ultimate goal for a database manager is to efficiently manage and store data for a private or commercial client.

I can see how math and computer science are definitely related but after I graduate I don't see myself in a computer science based career. I think part of the reason I was able to do well in my computer science class was because computers use logic in algorithms and all the different number systems made really clear sense to me. Other than that, though, I feel like my future profession will be mostly math which makes me so excited for what lies after graduation! Well, I'm off to class now so I'll talk to you guys later!

