# How can I become a hardware engineer?

Hiring managers typically require computer hardware engineering candidates to have at least a bachelor's degree in computer engineering, electrical engineering or a similar computer hardware/electronics focused field of study. Software-centric majors like computer science and software engineering, supplemented with suitable hardware-focused electives, may be adequate, depending on the job you are applying for. Some companies or highly specialized roles may require a master's or another advanced degree, but unless you know this in advance, your time will likely be better spent getting your foot in the door with an undergraduate degree -- once you're working as a computer hardware engineer you will have a better idea of the most valuable next steps in your learning plan.[\n]

Marketable skills and technical competencies to seek out in a computer hardware engineering degree program include electronics engineering, digital circuit design, signal processing, advanced logic and arithmetic, 2D/3D drafting, computer testing and quality control/assurance (QA), software systems engineering, and application development.[\n]

Desirable soft skills for computer hardware engineers include effective verbal and written communication, creative problem solving, and critical thinking. Hardware engineering managers will also benefit from soft skills in team leadership, professional development, active listening, and organization.