A high school student is considering her future. She is trying to decide which colleges to apply to. She is considering a few factors.

* She is from Philadelphia, but she wants to live somewhere “green” (she loves nature).
* She loves video games.
* She wants to be involved in clubs on campus.

Her counselor directs her to several college websites. She goes to Penn State’s website and sees a picture of a student making a game. She follows this page’s link to an “Intelligent Academic Planner.”

She is directed to a page with a search bar. The top of the page says to ask anything about Behrend’s CSSE program. There is a “Question Feed” on the side of the page that has questions like “What is Erie like?” and “What minors can I take?” She begins asking questions:

**What is CSSE?**

CSSE stands for Computer Science & Software Engineering.

**What is Computer Science?**

Undergraduate degrees in computer science include several categories of courses. Many in the first years of an undergraduate degree prepare students for advanced course work in the computer science major. These courses often include basic computer applications, discrete mathematics, calculus, and algorithms in addition to basic computer science courses such as introduction to computer science.

Major course work includes several types of classes in computer science. Students complete computer science courses in programming, information technology, applications and web development, operating systems, and data communications. Examples of specific courses include java programming, data structures, management information systems, business data communication, and web development. Specialized courses might also include security, forensics, and health informatics.

See recommend course schedule from Penn State Behrend to find out more about your question.

The response contains a link to Behrend’s recommended course schedule. She follows the link. After reading through the courses, she realizes that she will need to take many math courses.

**Do I need to be good at math for Computer Science?**

There are many problems in Computer Science and not all of them are strictly mathematical. Many of the problems are architectural and require solutions that involve a type of thinking that is not what you find in a university Mathematics department. If you enjoy computer science, do computer science.

**Does Behrend have tutors?**

If you are interested in seeking the help of a tutor, the Learning Resource Center has tutors for all majors and you can easily apply for appointments here.

The system recommends the math club. She thinks that joining a club dedicated to math seems a bit extreme and decides to find out whether Behrend has a tutoring center. The system offers a response with a link to the tutoring center.

**Do computer scientists make video games?**

For game design programming jobs, the education requirement is typically a bachelor's degree in video game development, computer science, software engineering, mobile application development, game & simulation programming, or a similar programming-focused area of study. Video game programmers should be fluent in the object-oriented programming (OOP) languages commonly used in video game design, such as Java, C and C++.

**Is there a club for game developers?**

The Game Developer’s Club is a club for students to develop their skills regarding game design and development as well as to socialize and work in a team environment on game development projects.

**Are there other clubs at Behrend?**

There are no engineering-specific clubs at Behrend, but there are many clubs that are liked by many engineers at Behrend. For example, 3D print club, game club, engineers without borders, robotics club, and design group. In addition, there is the Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society.

She calls her father over to tell him that Behrend sounds pretty cool. His main concerns are:

* The cost of attendance
* Whether the programs are accredited
* Whether the campus is safe
* How much his daughter will earn when she graduates

He begins to use the system.

**What is Behrend's tuition?**

Behrend is expensive, like any other private college. But, to give you numbers… If you are currently living in Pennsylvania, the cost of tuition is approximately $6,934 per semester. If you are not in Pennsylvania, the cost of tuition is approximately $10,937 per semester. But don’t forget about rent, food, or books which are another $6,535 per semester if living on-campus!

**What scholarships are offered at Behrend?**

Scholarships can be found in several locations. CourseHero offers several scholarships, in addition you can find many scholarship options at Penn State’s admissions and financial aid section in the main website.

Scholarships can be obtained in many different ways, but are usually done by writing essays about specific topics.

Since they are living in Philadelphia, this seems reasonably affordable. He bookmarks the link to the financial aid website and continues asking questions.

**What is the crime rate at Behrend?**

Penn State Behrend has a fairly low crime rate. There is a .021% chance of rape, .021% chance of forcible entry burglary, .105% chance of unlawful entry burglary, .525% chance of larceny or theft. The rest are currently 0%.

**Are the engineering programs at Behrend accredited?**

All Engineering programs at Behrend are accredited by the ABET.

**What is the salary of a Computer Scientist?**

Median salary for a Computer Scientist is $76,801 annually. Median Entry-Level salary is $68,642.

He is satisfied with the results of his questions and tells her mother that this may not be a bad school to apply to. Her mother asks what Erie is like.

**What is Erie like?**

Nestled between the shores of Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay is Erie’s top attraction – Presque Isle State Park. With sandy beaches and endless outdoor recreation, Presque Isle (French for “almost an island”) is a National Natural Landmark and one of Pennsylvania’s top vacation destinations, welcoming over 4 million visitors annually. Visitors flock to Presque Isle for its distinctive blend of natural beauty and year-round recreation including swimming, boating, biking, surfing, birding and fishing.

To date, Erie has received 108.5 inches of the white stuff this winter and our frozen city stands atop the snowfall derby race with a commanding 13 inch lead over Buffalo. Suffice to say this is a tough place to live if you hate winter.

Being from the East Coast, they’re not strangers to snow. The whole family believes this will be a good fit.

**Tell me more about Penn State Behrend.**

PENN STATE ERIE, THE BEHREND COLLEGE, located on 854 wooded acres in Erie, Pennsylvania, provides a small-university environment within the context of a major university. With its thirty-six undergraduate programs, Penn State Behrend offers an alternative within Penn State to the larger University Park campus. Classes are small and students are encouraged to interact with faculty outside the classroom. Enrolling more than 4,500 students, Penn State Behrend is a comprehensive four-year undergraduate and graduate college with a full range of supporting services, from residence halls through varsity athletics. The college offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities, including fraternities and sororities, more than 120 student clubs and organizations, intramurals, bands and choirs, and an annual speaker series.

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Penn State Behrend students can earn the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at the four-year level; they can earn associate degrees in selected two-year programs; or they can complete up to two years of most baccalaureate programs available within the University and then move to other Penn State locations to complete their degree program. Academic enrichment is provided through the Behrend Honors Program and the University-wide Schreyer Honors College as well as through study abroad opportunities and a very active undergraduate research program. The college’s programs capitalize on the proximity of such "natural laboratories" as the Erie urban area, Lake Erie, and other nearby resources.

For additional information of Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, 4701 College Drive, Erie, PA 16563-0101 ; or visit Penn State Behrend website .

The student and her family watch the video and decide to follow the link to Behrend’s website to apply to the college.