# Can I Become a Software Engineer With a Computer Science Degree?

If you have given serious thought to becoming a software engineer, you are probably interested in learning more about working as software engineer with a computer science degree. By learning more about which educational paths will help you pursue a career as a software engineer, you can make informed decisions regarding which major to select when you enroll in college.

# Software Engineers-The Basics

Although broadly defined, a software engineer is basically an individual who functions as the creative developer for computer programs. In some cases, software engineers develop the applications which allow individuals to perform specific tasks on their computers or other electronic devices. In other cases, a software engineer is responsible for developing the systems which control networks or run devices. Many software engineers work for software publishers or computer systems design firms. However, they can also work as independent contractors.

According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/software-developers.htm), the average wage for a software engineer in 2012 was $90,060. Additionally, the Bureau reports that the job outlook for software engineers is expected to grow by 22% between the years of 2012 and 2022. This is much faster than the average for all vocations. The primary reason for the growth is attributed to a great need and/or demand for computer software.

# Becoming A Software Engineer

If you have decided that you want to become a software engineer, you’re probably interested in learning about which educational path(s) will help you accomplish your objective. In discussing the educational backgrounds of software engineers, the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/software-developers.htm) reports that they generally obtain a bachelor’s degree in computer science. For this reason, it is clear that individuals who want to become software engineers can do so by attaining a degree in computer science.

While obtaining a degree in computer science is a safe route to pursue when you decide to become a software engineer, you should think critically about other options in order to determine the best course of action. For example, if you are interested in game design and are preparing to work as a game programmer, attaining the computer science degree will be practical and ideal. Attaining the CS degree will also be advantageous if you plan to work for a technical corporation such as Intel, IBM, Google, or Microsoft. However, if you are thinking about working for a non-technical corporation that places primacy on creating business applications, attaining a degree in Management Information Systems would be advantageous. Because this type of degree provides general business and management skills, it can be practical and perhaps more advantageous than a CS degree which involves mastering material that one may never use.

In many cases, determining which type of degree would be most advantageous for you to obtain can be as simple as doing research on the companies you plan to work for. It is often the case that employers will list the type of educational requirements for the positions they offer, and recognizing what these requirements are can help you select the undergraduate degree program that an employer will accept.