What Minors Go Well With a Computer Science Degree?

When researching minors with computer science degrees, you should think about the career path you plan to follow after graduation. A minor may not affect your hiring prospects, but the college coursework can certainly prepare you for a position in a variety of related fields.

Colleges typically break computer science degree tracks into three categories: science, software development and business. These tracks don’t take into account or require a minor, but they do cover some very different subjects. To customize your education for future job prospects, you can specialize in your chosen path by selecting a related minor or broaden your education by choosing a different one.For example, if you plan to become a computer systems analyst, you might choose the business track and minor in biology, chemistry or mathematics to make yourself more attractive to employers.

Depending on the type of job you want, you may be required to show your understanding of the subjects you studied in college. Many employers who hire software developers say that the candidates they interview perform poorly on tests designed to assess their programming knowledge. If you plan to become a programmer, your choice of minor should complement your programming skills. A minor in mathematics can help you solve quantitative problems more quickly and provide a deep understanding of programming theory.

A computer science degree includes the essential discrete math courses required for programming as well as basic calculus, physics and statistics material, which often comes up when programming. A science- or math-related minor builds on the continuous math taught in calculus, physics and statistics so that you get a better perspective of science in general. These concepts can often be applied when solving discrete optimization problems such as the ones found on pre-interview screening tests.