Changing Your Major to Computer Science

Limited resources and our desire to provide the Computer Science (CS) majors with an excellent education has made the CS change-of-major process extremely competitive. It is your responsibility to stay in contact with the CS advising staff, especially if you are confused about your eligibility or the requirements. Submit the Change of Major petition and Study Plan to the Computer Science Department during the last quarter of required classes (before you pick your classes for the next quarter).

Minimum Requirements (NO Exceptions Made):

1. Complete these courses with a letter grade and on the first attempt:
   a. CMPSC 16*, CMPSC 24** and CMPSC 40 (or Math 8)**
      i. Minimum of 3.2 GPA***
   b. Math 3A (or 2A), Math 3B (or 2B), Math 4A and Math 4B
      i. Minimum of 3.0 GPA***
2. Never have been on academic probation at UCSB
3. Have less than 105 UCSB units at time of application
   a. AP and transferable non-UC units do NOT count toward this limit
4. Complete a study plan that demonstrates you can finish the CS degree without exceeding 200 units or 5 total years of college
5. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

*If no programming experience, must take CMPSC 8 before CMPSC 16
**Can take CMPSC 24 and CMPSC 40 concurrently
***Grade of C or lower in 1a. or grade of C- or lower in 1b. will result in ineligibility to switch in.

Note: CMPSC40 has been moved from the math requirements to the CS requirements as of Spring 2019.

Policy on Transfer Courses:
You are allowed to take a maximum of TWO courses outside of a UC campus to fulfill the change of major requirements. However, only ONE course from the programming sequence (CMPSC 16 and 24 or 40) may be taken elsewhere. If one programming course is transferred, one math course (Math 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B) maybe also be transferred. If both programming courses are taken at a UC campus, you may transfer credit for two math courses. Every change of major petition turned in Winter 2019 and following, must adhere to the TWO transfer course maximum.

For additional questions, contact the CS Undergraduate Advisor at ugradhelp@cs.ucsb.edu or (805) 893-4321. The Computer Science Department office can be found on the 2nd floor of Harold Frank Hall, in Room 2104.
Change of Major FAQ’s

1) Does being in a certain major or college make it “easier” to switch in?

-Below are the majors who have “priority enrollment” in the CS classes needed for the change of major petition. Priority enrollment means these students have access to the classes in their 1st and 2nd pass times. Any majors not on these lists have to wait until their 3rd pass time for class registration to add these classes (or add into the waitlist if already full).

CS 8: Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Geography GIS, Math, Pre-Math, Pre-Math Sciences, Pre-Financial Math, Statistics, Statistical Sciences, and Actuarial Sciences

CS 16: Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Statistics, Statistical Sciences, and Actuarial Sciences

CS 24: Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Electrical Engineering

CS 40: Computer Science and Computer Engineering

2) Can I take these classes somewhere else and transfer the credit? How will that affect the GPA requirement?

-Our classes are heavily impacted so enrolling in them is usually the biggest hurdle faced in the change of major process. You can choose to take their equivalents during the summer at another 4-year institution (UC/CSU or out of state) or at a community college.

-To get a 4-year school’s equivalent approved, email the CS undergrad advisor with the course information (website, syllabus, etc) BEFORE you enroll in it. For 2-year CA community college classes, you can check on Assist.org. If you see the equivalent approved on there, you can take the class.

NOTE: Transfer work (anything completed outside of a UC campus) will just result in completed credits. The grade does not transfer to your UCSB GPA nor will be taken into account when your petition GPA is calculated. The cumulative GPA requirements (3.2 for CS 16-24 and 3.0 for the rest) will be calculated from the courses completed on a UC campus.