Envisioning the Future of UW Computer Science & Engineering

UW CSE Today: Producing excellence

UW CSE prepares Washington’s top students for Washington’s top jobs.

UW CSE granted more than 300 Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral degrees in the most recent year. More than three-quarters of our students are Washington State residents, and more than three-quarters of our graduates remain here. We are a top supplier of graduates – by far the top supplier in the state – to leading-edge companies of all sizes, from Amazon, Google and Microsoft, to Redfin, Tableau, Zillow and numerous startups. During the most recent year, our two introductory courses educated 4,500 students; we are on track to exceed 5,000 students this year.

UW CSE is one of the top programs in the nation, competing only with Stanford, MIT, Carnegie Mellon, and UC Berkeley to attract the finest faculty and students.

We produce high-impact research that pushes the boundaries of our field; we have a track record of recruiting and supporting extraordinary, entrepreneurial faculty; and we educate highly successful undergraduate and graduate students. We also engage broadly in our community, nationally, and internationally. We have roughly 50 faculty members and an annual budget of approximately $40 million: $15 million in state support and tuition, and $25 million in grants, contracts, and gifts.

UW CSE has led the way in positioning computer science as central to tackling critical national and global challenges.

Our first-mover advantage in this modern view of the field has paid tremendous dividends and will continue to do so, notably in the recruitment of world-class faculty and students to our program.

Our 2003 move to the Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science & Engineering was transformational.

New laboratory space changed the trajectory of our research and enabled us to triple our research funding. Enrollments exploded, and interdisciplinary initiatives blossomed. Entrepreneurship has become a cornerstone of our activities: UW CSE has created 19 startups that have raised over $350 million in venture funding, and UW CSE alumni have built countless more.
UW CSE Tomorrow: The case for growth

The Paul G. Allen Center for Computer Science & Engineering is filled to capacity and overflowing.

Investment in additional UW CSE degree capacity is essential and likely, but new physical capacity will be required to accommodate these students and to continue to attract leading faculty. We must expand UW CSE to meet the growing demand from students, employers, and our innovation economy.

Today we are able to accommodate only one-third of UW students who fulfill prerequisites and apply to the major.

Demand for the major continues to grow rapidly. In addition, demand for our introductory courses and for upper-division coursework by non-majors is increasing dramatically, as every field becomes an information field.

A new CSE building is UW’s top capital budget priority.

The new facility will complement the state-of-the-art Allen Center by providing up to 75,000 square feet of additional space for a lecture theater, classrooms, seminar rooms, research and instructional laboratories, and an undergraduate commons. It will enable UW CSE to grow our faculty, engage in more interdisciplinary collaborations, and double annual degree production. Like the Allen Center, it will be built through a public/private partnership in which the state, the university, alumni, and corporate and individual friends in the innovation community come together to build for the future. Seattle’s LMN Architects – the designer of the Allen Center – is hard at work on the design of the new facility.

By the Numbers: Exploding demand for CSE graduates

State and national data point to the acute and growing need for computer science graduates.

In Washington State, computer science is one of only four fields with a gap between degrees granted and jobs available at the Baccalaureate level and above. The gap in computer science is greater than the total gap in the other three fields. Nationally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that 71 percent of all newly created jobs in the STEM fields during this decade will be in computing, and 57 percent of all available jobs, whether newly created or vacant due to retirements, will be in this field.

Computer science and computer engineering are changing the world. UW CSE is helping to drive this revolution.

Expanded physical capacity will enable us to build upon our record as one of the nation’s most innovative, entrepreneurial programs and to seize an enormous opportunity for our university, our economy, and our citizens.

Visit us online at www.cs.washington.edu.