

ADMISSION STANDARDS

Admission into our Computer Science programs is a competitive process. Recent statistics show that only 10-15% of approximately 200 applicants are admitted every year to our graduate programs. Of these, only a small percentage of individuals receive financial aid. Our standards follow:

1. The completion of a four-year undergraduate degree (or its equivalent) from an accredited institution.
2. A minimum 3.00 undergraduate grade point average on a four-point scale is required for all graduate programs.
3. Applicants to the PhD program, international or domestic, are required to submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. Applicants to the MCS program are strongly encouraged, but not required, to submit GRE General Test scores. If the applicant does not have a degree in computer science, or the equivalent coursework to that of a computer science major, the GRE Computer Science Subject Test is recommended (but not required) as part of the admission process. The GRE General test scores of students admitted for fall 2005 & 2006 averaged approximately 560 Verbal, 780 Quantitative, 4.5 Analytic Writing.
4. A minimum TOEFL score of 213 for computer-based tests (550 for paper-based tests) or a minimum IELTS score of 7.0 (with no section score lower than 6.0) is required for international applicants whose native language is not English. However, students with TOEFL scores below 250 on the computer-based test (600 on paper-based) are generally not admitted. Note that exceeding these scores does not guarantee admission, and that average scores of students who are awarded financial aid are significantly higher.
5. Official undergraduate and graduate transcripts, showing strong performance in the following key areas:
 - Math foundations (calculus, discrete math, probability, numerical analysis, etc.)
 - Programming (C, C++, Java) and programming language foundations
 - Data structures and algorithms
 - Software and hardware systems
6. Three letters of recommendation, written by persons who have direct knowledge of an applicant's intellectual ability, motivation to study computer science, preparation for graduate school, creativity in research, capacity to work independently, and, if an international student, ability to speak and write English.

For further information, please contact the Graduate Programs Secretary, Department of Computer Science, University of Iowa, 14 MacLean Hall, Iowa City, IA 52242-1419, or phone toll-free within Iowa: 1-800-272-6412, extension 5-0707; outside of Iowa: 1-800-553-IOWA (4692), extension 5-0707; or email: cs_info@cs.uiowa.edu.