Registration

Course Registration:
Your main goal should be to become a successful graduate of the CS @ ILLINOIS program. This is a 4 year degree that cannot be rushed. You must complete course work before going on to the next course, prerequisites will be enforced. We are not here to ensure you have completed a specific course for an immediate internship after freshman year but to make sure you are prepared for your next level of course work.

Registering for Classes - Information for CS, Math & CS, Stats & CS, and all "CS + X" (CS + Anthro, CS + Astro, CS + Chem, and CS + Linguistics) Majors

Early registration for classes for each term occurs in the latter part of the previous term: Students register for spring semester classes starting the previous November; students register for summer and fall classes starting the previous April. Here are some answers to frequently asked questions and information about registration and advising:

Registration Checklist
1. Meet with your advisor for any questions and in the spring your required meeting with your mentor must be completed to be able to register
2. Prepare for Enrollment Restrictions
3. Clear any registration holds you may have
4. Register for a complete schedule at full-time status, if you underload it must be approved
5. Verify your address
6. If you are registering for your final semester you will need to select graduation information and add yourself to the pending degree list

http://www.registrar.illinois.edu/registration-checklist

What are the registration Procedures:

http://www.registrar.illinois.edu/registration-procedures

How to Register

Registration Eligibility

Time Tickets

Holds

Enrollment Requirements & Prerequisites

Authorization-Only Courses

Linked Sections

Maximum & Minimum Enrollment Levels

Credit/No Credit

Intercollegiate Transfer Policy

Student Health Insurance

Canceling Your Registration

Contacts
To find current restrictions and when courses may open within CS please check the link listed below. Information for upcoming semesters will be posted around the time the upcoming course schedule is posted.

Computer Science Course Restriction and Enrollment Cap Information

I’m getting an error message. What does it mean? It is always best to have the course explorer and read the course notes under the specific CRN (course registration number) you are attempting to add to your schedule.

Following are error messages commonly received during registration. Learn what they mean and what to do when you receive them.

**Class Restriction**

The class is being held for students at a particular class standing (i.e., freshmen, sophomore, junior, or senior). Try to add another section of the class. Check the class schedule to see if the department has posted when the restriction will be lifted.

**Closed or Reserved**

The class is being held for students in a particular program or major. Try to add another section of the class. Check the class schedule to see if the department has posted when the restriction will be lifted.

**College Restriction**

The class is being held for students in a particular college. Check the class schedule to see if the department has posted when the restriction will be lifted.

**CORQ Error**

Some classes require that you also register for a corequisite or attached course. If you get this error, the error message will tell you the class and CRN you need to add. Type both CRNs in the boxes at the bottom of the add/drop screen and try again.

**Departmental Approval Required**

The course has been restricted by the department. Check the class schedule to see if the department has posted when the restriction will be lifted. Otherwise, contact the department for more information.

**Link Error**

Specific lecture sections must be linked to a lab or discussion section. The lecture and the discussion or lab must start with the same letter (A, B, etc.).

For example, I want to register for SOC 100. I need a lecture (AL1) and discussion section (ADA or ADF). If I do not have both the lecture and discussion section selected, or if I register for a BL1 lecture and an ADA discussion, I will get this error.

**Major Restriction**

This class is being held for students in a particular major or majors. Check the class schedule to see if the department has posted when the restriction will be lifted.

**Program Restriction**

This course is restricted to a particular program or major. Check the class schedule to see if the department has posted when the restriction will be lifted.

**Student Attribute Restriction / PREQ or Test Score Error**

You get one of these messages when you don’t have an attribute required of the course or section. Check the section restrictions in the class schedule. Most often, course are held in this fashion for freshmen, James Scholars, pre-College of Media students, Weston or Allen Hall students, and so on.

These sections will not open to other students unless otherwise noted, so if possible, try to add another section of the class that is unrestricted.
Time Conflict With (CRN)

You will get this message when the time of the course you tried to add conflicts with another course. Check to see if the course conflicts with either a discussion or lecture and try to change the previous or new course to a different time.

Registration Time Tickets

http://www.registrar.illinois.edu/online-registration

Timeframe

Q: When does registration begin?
A: To see how registration times are determined check this page on the Office of the Registrar's website.

Q: That's great, but when do I get to register?!
A: You should receive an email about this from the Office of the Registrar around the middle of each spring and fall term (which reminds me, READ YOUR EMAIL!). Following the instructions in the email, you'll be able to look for your Time Ticket (earliest registration time) on Enterprise Student Self Service. Once the time stated on your time ticket comes up, you can start registering for your courses.

Q: What happens if I wait until later – a few weeks or months after my time ticket – to register? It's not a big deal, is it?
A: Yes, or you many not be able to register for the courses required to keep you on track to graduate. You should know that some important CS courses have been filling up the last few semesters, so we're trying to help you by restricting registration in many of our core courses (CS 173, CS 210, CS 233, CS 241, CS 242, CS 357, CS 374 and most 400-level CS electives) to certain majors. We lift the restrictions from most of those courses the Monday after early registration ends. So if you haven't registered by then and find that you can't get into the class you need, we are not going to be too sympathetic. You will have to register for the CS electives that are available.

If you have a hold for any reason that restricts your ability to register let an advisor know ASAP. They will work you as much as possible to have a seat for you in your required courses.

Information about requirements

Q: How can I figure out which courses I should register for next semester?
A: Here are some basic guidelines for putting together your schedule:

Requirements fall into three general categories:

1. Major requirements: courses required for your specific major - these are spelled out for each CS-related major and can be found
2. General education requirements: to make sure your degree program is well-rounded - see the Engineering advising wiki for Engineering gen eds and the LAS website for LAS-specific gen eds.
3. Free electives: additional coursework to bring your credit hours up to the required minimum for graduation - Engineering students be sure to check the Engineering free electives wiki page for courses that do not count.

You can follow your progress through your requirements using two main tools:

1. Check the requirements flowchart for your major for the suggested order in which major requirements should be taken or use one of the curriculum planning sheets.
2. See what requirements you have completed/are completing and have left to complete by checking your degree audit. You can access your degree audit on the web-based DARS system. The Registrar's Office website has a step-by-step procedure on how to run a DARS Audit, https://registrar.illinois.edu/dars-audit

Q: My DARS looks incomplete/incorrect. What can I do about it?
A: Email undergrad@cs.illinois.edu and ask them about the specific concern you have with your DARS.

CS majors who still fall under the "old" technical track requirements (started before Fall 2013) can still follow the requirements for each track here: CS track, CSE track and Math track.

If you have taken a course that you think should satisfy a requirement but is not, email undergrad@cs.illinois.edu.

If your situation is not so straightforward or if you're really struggling in your courses this fall, you should talk to your advisor, Steve Herzog or Professor Pitt or Heather Zike before you register for your courses.

Caution! When drawing up your schedule, pay close attention to course offering patterns! Do not overload yourself!
Information about individual courses

If you want information about individual courses, here are critical sources of information that students often overlook:

- The new Course Explorer, accessible courses.illinois. [https://courses.illinois.edu/](https://courses.illinois.edu/)
- The university course information suite with links to the Course Catalog which lists every single course each department possesses and the online Class Schedule, which lists offered for a specific term.
- Some courses have websites accessible from the Engineering wiki. Undergrad Advising Home

Can an advisor get me into a closed class?

Advisor’s cannot register you for a closed course, below are our suggestions. It is always best to have a back-up course on your schedule if your first choice is not available at registration time.

- Advisors cannot register you for closed courses, even if you really need the course.
- Check the class schedule. Read the course notes and check to see if a new section of the course may be added.
- Keep trying. Someone will probably drop the course, so check frequently to see if someone does. Persistence is the key to getting the classes you want.
- Call or stop by the department offering the course to ask:
  - Is there any way I can schedule this course?
  - Are additional sections likely to be added? If so, when?
  - Is there a waiting list? If so, can I add my name to it? (CS does not have a waitlist for courses)
- Expect to make changes during breaks or when you return to campus. Many students do not leave for winter and summer breaks with class schedules finalized.
- Schedule a related course that would be a good alternative. That being said, don’t settle for courses that are not appropriate just because they are available.
- Try again during peak schedule change times. Right before classes start and during the first 10 days of the semester, people are frequently making changes to their schedules.
- Attend the first day of class and ask the instructor if you can register for the course. The instructor may tell you no; however, he or she may tell you yes if attendance is low during the first week and it appears that there might be room in the course.
- If you can’t add the class right away, ask the instructor if you can attend the class in the meantime. That way you will be certain that you really want the course, and you will not have missed anything if the course becomes available.

Seeking Advice

Q: So who is my advisor?
A: If you have ANY questions about requirements, policies and procedures you can talk to an academic advisor (Steve Herzog or Heather Zike, the academic advisors for Computer Science or Professor Pitt, the Director of Undergraduate Studies). You can email all three ([undergrad@illinois.edu](mailto:undergrad@illinois.edu)) or stop by the Academic Office in 1210 Siebel Center. Steve and Heather are usually in during walk-in hours (10:00-11:45 am and 1-4:00 pm), but you can check to make sure - the walk-in hours are usually posted right by the door to the Academic Office.

Q: Am I required to meet with an advisor before I register?
A: You are required to meet with your faculty mentor (see below for more info) in the spring semester to be eligible to register for the upcoming fall. If you have questions about scheduling, requirements and procedures, though, you should see an advisor in the Academic Office or email [undergrad@cs.illinois.edu](mailto:undergrad@cs.illinois.edu).

Faculty Mentors

All CS undergrads are assigned a faculty mentor (new students receive their assignments usually in their first spring semester). Typically, all undergraduates must meet with their faculty mentor by the beginning of April (early registration for summer and fall terms). If you have a question that a faculty member would be best equipped to answer, feel free to contact your mentor, or any professor you’ve met with before or have had a course with in a past semester. Or if you have a question about a certain area of computer science, you can find which faculty members specialize in that particular area. All of our faculty members are listed by research area and in alphabetical order on the CS website. You can find these listings, along with contact information for each faculty member, in the [CS departmental faculty directory](https://www.cs.illinois.edu/). To understand more about faculty mentors and the advising process, see [How Advising Works in the Computer Science Department](https://cs.illinois.edu/advising/).

PIAZZA

What is Piazza?
We'd like you to be able to use this as a forum for getting advice from other students, and from the academic office. Many questions you might have could probably be answered quickly if we pool our shared knowledge.

For simple advising questions, feel free to post here; the academic office staff will be monitoring and answering as best and as quickly as we can. This may save you a trip to the academic office (though we'd still like to see you - don't be a stranger!)

Here are some suggestions, guidelines, and comments about this new service.

- Use this forum for asking your peers questions about courses, sanity-checking schedules, internships, etc.
- Use this forum for simple questions about department, college, and university policies.
- Don't post academically sensitive information (e.g., grades, etc.) unless you are posting anonymously.
- We've disabled private posts to the academic office, because usually such a post would indicate that you should probably be coming in to see Steve or Heather or Lenny in person.
- If you have suggestions for additional folder names, let us know.
- If there are particular bits of information or resources that you'd like to see pinned - let us know.
- If you have suggestions for improvement - let us know.

How To sign up for the advising Piazza: https://piazza.com/configure-classes/other/csadvising

Link to the Advising Piazza course page: piazza.com/illinois/other/csadvising/home

Courses to Consider each semester

CS 498 Special Topics in CS courses

CS 498 Special Topics courses tend to be small classes, focused on a topic close to a faculty member's heart, and thus provide an excellent opportunity for a letter of recommendation and a future project or thesis. And you can use them to satisfy your 400-level CS elective requirements. Below is the current list of topics. For more information, including meeting times, course descriptions and prerequisites, see the course (https://courses.illinois.edu/) and search for CS 498 to see the titles of courses offered

Some current and past CS 498 Special Topics (others may be added):

- Computational Photography
- Socio-Computer Interaction
- Virtual Reality
- Digital Forensics
- Machine Learning for Signal Processing
- AI for Computer Games
- Intro to Data Science
- The Art of Web Programming

Graduation Information

- Check your DARS to make sure you know which requirements you have remaining and make sure that you can fit them in to your remaining semesters. For help, contact a CS academic advisor.
- Make sure you'll reach the required total hours minimum. See DARS for this, and remember that DARS includes in-progress courses - anything you're currently taking this semester and anything you've registered for next semester - in the total hours!
- Don't forget free electives! CS in Engineering majors need 128 total hours to graduate; all CS Dept undergrads in LAS need 120 hours. Just fulfilling your major requirements and gen eds will not be enough. Engineering majors be sure to check the Engineering advising wiki page on free electives to see which courses DO NOT count toward your total graduation hours.
- If you have any time conflicts among the remaining required courses, email the CS undergraduate advisors as soon as possible and let them know which courses are conflicting.
- Declare your intent to graduate. You should do this through Enterprise Student Self Service when you go to register for your final semester of courses. Click on the tab "Graduation Information" and make sure the term is set at the term you are graduating, then follow the instructions for declaring your intent to graduate.
- Review this website from the Office of the Registrar to make sure you complete all the important steps for graduation
- Graduation Information can be found: http://commencement.illinois.edu/

contains the following:

- Academic Attire for Students
- Printed Announcements
- Commencement Program
- Commencement Speaker
- December Ceremonies
- Diplomas
- Lodging
- May Ceremonies
- Photographer at Ceremony
- Senior Pictures
- Shuttle Bus Map (pdf)
- Special Needs/Accessibility
- Tickets
- University Honors ("Bronze Tablet")
- Inclement Weather Plan
- Future Commencement Dates