

Interested in computer science at Union College? As reliance on computer technology continues to increase, the number of computer science related jobs is increasing significantly as well. Even in these difficult economic times, employment opportunities in many computer-related categories are expected to grow significantly in the coming years. CS graduates in the class of 2009 had no difficulty finding jobs in the field at very competitive salaries. So this continues to be an exciting time to enter the field of computer science! You can get an idea of career possibilities at <http://computingcareers.acm.org/>

What are we doing in CS@Union? We have recently added upper level courses in robotics, web development, computer games, human-computer interaction, and parallel computing. Our equipment and facilities, supported by National Science Foundation grants and various gifts, include a Pioneer 3 robot, a human computer interaction lab, a robotics lab, and a 25-node dual CPU cluster computer. Our incoming faculty members specialize in soft robotics and embodied conversational agents, and will add expertise to several areas of our curriculum. We have exciting opportunities for students who have a range of interests:

- We are developing new programs in computational science, computational biology, cognitive science, digital libraries, computational linguistics, and natural language processing. We recently also launched a new program in digital art which includes CS and Visual Arts courses, addressing web development, modeling, animation, design, graphics, gaming, and other crossover areas.
- We are rolling out a number of new applications-oriented introductory CS courses. You will be able to start the CS major or minor with a focus on media computation, robotics, artificial intelligence, game development, or computational science.
- For those interested in other aspects of CS, we also teach history of computing, sections of first year preceptorial, a seminar that focuses on a number of scientists including Alan Turing, and a sophomore research seminar on human-computer interaction.

The CS department at Union has excellent facilities. We have several teaching labs that are available to students 24/7 for homework and other independent work. Each summer a number of our students stay on campus to carry out research projects. These include robotics work, software engineering experiments, work on the cluster computer, natural language processing or collaborative projects with faculty in other departments.

If you have any questions about the programs we offer, options to major or minor in CS, or wish to discuss any of our activities further, please contact me (barrv@union.edu, 518-388-8361). When you make plans to visit Union, please let me know. I would be happy to meet you, show you our facilities, and talk with you about our program.

Sincerely,



Dr. Valerie Barr
Professor and Department Chair