Consistently ranked among the top 5 computer science departments in the country, CS @ ILLINOIS has the unique combination of both quality and scale. Not only do we attract the brightest students—fall 2016 admitted students averaged a 33.8 ACT math score—but each year we graduate over 350 exceptional students who go on to become leaders in industry, academia, and public service fields. Our College of Engineering educates more engineering undergraduates than MIT, Stanford, and Caltech combined.

Exceptional, internationally recognized faculty

Our 80 faculty members have made significant contributions to a vast range of areas, including cloud computing and distributed systems, computer vision, data mining, security, software engineering, high-performance computing, and emerging fields like social computing, computational advertising, and bioinformatics. We’re proud of our 13 ACM Fellows, 13 IEEE Fellows, 8 Sloan Research Fellows, and 28 NSF CAREER Award recipients.

Highly educated, creative, & well-prepared graduates

The class of 2016 bachelor’s graduates reported an average starting salary of $99,319. Over the years, our alumni have launched entirely new industries, generated billions of dollars in commerce, created tens of thousands of jobs, and revolutionized the way people communicate, shop, conduct business, and are entertained.

Companies that have been founded or that are led by CS @ ILLINOIS graduates are among the biggest names in the high tech arena, including Malwarebytes, Match.com, Microsoft, Netscape, Optimizely, PayPal, Siebel Systems, YouTube, and Yelp.

CS @ ILLINOIS Facts and Figures

- 12,760 alumni
- 1,790 undergraduate students
- 920 graduate students
- 80 faculty
- $34.7 million research expenditures in 2016
- Birthplace of Mosaic, the world’s first popular web browser and the LLVM compiler infrastructure
- University of Illinois is #1 in NSF funding
- College of Engineering ranked #13 in Academic Rankings of World Universities in Engineering
- CS is ranked #5 in U.S. News & World Report Graduate School Rankings
- Ranked #28 in Academic Rankings of World Universities in Computer Science
Serious Infrastructure for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Our faculty and students are part of an entrepreneurial ecosystem where groundbreaking research addresses real-world problems. The Brookings Institute recently called Champaign-Urbana one of the top U.S. locations for per-capita venture capital. Popular Mechanics designated C-U a Best Start-Up City in America.

CS @ ILLINOIS faculty have commercialized technology that provides:

- new and better search engines through deep data-aware vertical web searching.
- real-time structural health monitoring of bridges and other civil infrastructure through a novel wireless smart-sensor network.
- an advanced ability to secure online systems using a new network verification tool.
- runtime verification-based techniques to improve the safety, reliability, and correctness of software systems, including those embedded in automobiles.
- solutions to aid developers in creating highly scalable parallel computing applications.

Collaborative Space with Some of the World’s Most Powerful Computing Resources

Our collaborative culture brings the best minds together to work on some of society’s most vexing problems—from medical information privacy, to climate modeling, to transforming raw data into useful information, to understanding the genome. Our faculty and students have boundless opportunities to conduct multidisciplinary research focused on these major computing challenges.

Most CS faculty and students work in the Thomas M. Siebel Center for Computer Science, which has some of the best classrooms, research & instructional labs, and informal meeting spaces on the University of Illinois campus.

CS researchers have access to the NSF-funded Blue Waters supercomputer, the nation’s most powerful and productive machine for open science, which is nearly 3 million times faster than the average laptop and can perform quadrillions of calculations every second.