THE PATHWAY FROM
EDUCATION TO VOCATION

Becoming a Difference Maker in
COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Why Study Computer Information Systems at Azusa Pacific University?

Computer Information Systems (CIS) is the study of computer hardware and software that people, organizations, and businesses use to collect, create, process, and distribute data. Computer information systems specialists and management professionals design, build, and implement software solutions that are the driving force in many businesses, non-profits, and government agencies. They're also relied upon to analyze existing systems and discover new ways to optimize their performance. So it's no surprise that significant job growth is expected in CIS fields over the next several years.

The Computer Information Systems program at APU combines cutting edge technology with 21st century business practices into a hands-on active-learning environment. Our faculty are dedicated to providing the best possible education and career preparation for students who have the talent and work ethic to succeed in the challenging and rewarding CIS marketplace. Students graduating from our program gain significant analytical, technical, organizational and interpersonal skills so that they can hit the ground running when they begin their careers. The CIS program at APU centers around courses in database design and management, computer coding languages, marketing, and accounting. Students learn to encode, organize, analyze and utilize computer systems and digital databases to solve problems and provide support for a variety of business needs.

AZUSA PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER A COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAJOR IF YOU:

- Are interested in technology and its application, but don't want to focus on the scientific and mathematical aspects of computer science

- Enjoy puzzles and mental challenges

- Are thorough and detail oriented

- Approach problems with patience and persistence

- Are interested in working independently as a freelancer or consultant

ANTHONY RAMIREZ '07
Director of Information Technology
Foothill Christian School

Anthony always had an interest in the field of computers, especially incorporating technology within a business. In his current role, he maintains complex computer systems, which was the core knowledge he gained through course work at APU.

"You don't need to know everything to be successful, but you must be willing to learn if you want to be."

MELISSA TESSIER '02
IT Project Manager
CIT Bank

Melissa decided to major in CIS because of its web focused nature. Currently, she oversees changes in CIT's online banking platform and says the programming classes at APU were crucial for her success in this field.

"It was a great experience to be in a Christian university and have support from faculty where they are willing to pray for you."

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAJORS ARE PREPARED FOR:

- Applying general problem-solving techniques to business-specific problems

- Consideration of the ethical implications of technological advancements

- Entering the high-tech industry and succeeding

- Identifying world-wide social-impact problems and offering realistic solutions

- Understanding and creating real-world project requirements & specifications

GRADUATES IN COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS WORK AS:

- Computer systems analysts

- Computer programmers

- Software engineers

- Web developers

- Database managers

- Information security specialists

- Network administrators

- Game designers

- Chief technology officers

- Freelance technology consultants

*Many of these careers may require additional training and/or graduate education

ELIKEM ADADEVOH '05
UX Developer
CRU

Eli has spent most of his professional career working as a web designer or developer for companies ranging from family owned to large multi-national organizations. He received his graduate degree from DePaul University in Chicago, IL.

"Foster relationships with people who build you up and don't forget to build others up too."

To connect with these and other APU alumni, email clasalumni@apu.edu

STEPS TO TAKE AS A MAJOR IN COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS	OPTIONS TO EXPLORE AROUND APU

BE CALLED.
EXPLORE. DEFINE. RESEARCH. LEARN.

- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS 220)**
Explore what computer scientists do by taking a fun, introductory programming course.

- **ATTEND A ROBOTICS CLUB MEETING**
Visit a Robotics Club meeting (no skill required) to see what fun and exciting robotics projects our students are developing with industry partners and/or for personal interest.

- **LEARN HOW TO APPLY YOUR STRENGTHS WITHIN YOUR ACADEMICS, LIFE, AND CAREER**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or Strengths Mentor.

- **CONSIDER CAREER OPTIONS FOR YOUR MAJOR**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or your faculty advisor to explore and discuss requirements for your career options.

BE PREPARED.
IDENTIFY. STRENGTHEN. PRACTICE.

- **ATTEND A COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS CAREER NIGHT**
Come and listen to industry partners and Alumni as they share insights about how to prepare yourself for the technology industry.

- **ATTEND A SUMMER SERVICE TRIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT**
Collaborate with universities around the world in developing computer programs and solutions which lead to positive social impact in third-world communities.

- **COMPETE IN AN ACM PROGRAMMING COMPETITION**
Compete in the regional ACM programming competition against dozens of other southern California schools to help increase your problem-solving skills and measure yourself against top regional programmers.

- **SECURE AN INTERNSHIP**
Start planning to apply for internships during junior year. Many students get jobs with the same company they interned with. Benefits include:
  - Gain the real-world experiences that all employers seek
  - Exposure to various fields in computing
  - Help build your professional network
  - Great resume boost

- **RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON YOUR INTERVIEWING ABILITIES**
Complete a Mock Interview with a Career Consultant*

- **CREATE A RESUME TO APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your resume and cover letter. Run them by your professors, too.

- **GROW YOUR SKILLS IN AN ON CAMPUS JOB OR STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITION**
Talk to Student Employment or Student Life about the available opportunities.

- **VOLUNTEER LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY TO SHAPE YOUR PERSPECTIVE**
Talk to the Center for Student Action about how you can serve.

- **GAIN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR CAREER OPTIONS**
Do informational interviews or go to a career-related event to learn more about your career, degree, and experience requirements.

BE CONNECTED.
JOIN. NETWORK. BE ACTIVE.

- **JOIN IEEE**
IEEE is the world's largest technical society. Members gain access to essential technical information, networking opportunities, career development tools, and many other exclusive benefits.

- **JOIN ACM**
ACM chapter members are elegible to recieve valuable networking tools and industry information.

- **JOIN ROBOTICS CLUB**
Club activities include programming, robotics and engineering. Provides a solid foundation in object-oriented programming, mechanical engineering, teamwork, and well-developed critical thinking skills.

- **PARTICIPATE IN ZUVENTUREZ**
ZuVenturez is a training program and business competition held by the School of Business. Form a team, make invaluable connections, and win money from real-life investors to help launch your start-up company idea.

- **TALK TO ALUMNI FROM YOUR MAJOR**
Join APUConnect.com and start reaching out. You can also email clasalumni@apu.edu[+] for help connecting with alumni.

- **GET ACTIVE ON LINKEDIN**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your profile and learn how to use LinkedIn.

- **ATTEND CAREER-RELATED EVENTS**
Keep an eye out for career events related to your major or that are happening around campus.

- **HAVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON HAND**
Request them from professors and advisors at least a month before due.

Visit apucareer.youcanbook.me/ to make an appointment with a Career Consultant

[+] Use subject line: Connect me with APU alumni

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

EXPLORE.

REASONS TO GO TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
- YOU WANT TO
- GREATER EARNING POWER
- CHANGE YOUR CAREER
- ENHANCE YOUR EDUCATION
- ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

Learn more at
www.apu.edu/career/graduateschool

SELECT.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP IDENTIFY THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOU

Peterson's Guide
GradSchools.com
The Princeton Review
National Assoc. of Graduate Professional Students
The Council of Graduate Schools
APU Pew Society
Graduate Guide

EXAMPLES OF SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY APU COMPUTER INFORAMTION SYSTEMS GRADUATES:

University of Southern California
Portland State University
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Hawaii
Oregon State University

APPLY.

☐ **APPLICATION FORM AND FEES**
Follow instructions carefully and have one or more people check for errors.

☐ **ENTRANCE ESSAY**
Provide a writing example that shows your personal objectives.

☐ **TRANSCRIPT**
Ask APU to send it directly to the school you are applying to.

☐ **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
Schools usually require three letters, so get them early.

☐ **INTERVIEWS**
If your potential school requests an interview, treat it as a job interview.

FINDING YOUR CAREER

IDENTIFY.

- Search online job boards and professional associations in the Computer Information Systems field
- Regularly check-in with your organizations of interest and network with those who can inform you of opportunities
- Look on APU Career Network for possible opportunities

COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSOCIATIONS:

American Society for Information Science and Technology
Association for Computing Machinery
Association for Women in Computing
American Society for Engineering Education
Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology
Association of Information Technology Professionals
The Computing Research Association
The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Computer Society
Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics

PREPARE.

BRAINSTORM YOUR EXPERIENCE
What have you done? What is relevant?
▼
TAILOR YOUR RESUME
What does the job description say?
▼
WRITE GOOD BULLET POINTS
Do you focus on your accomplishments?
▼
FORMAT YOUR RESUME
Is it easy to read and follow?
▼
PRACTICE INTERVIEWING
Know yourself.
Know the position.
Know the organization.

RESEARCH OPTIONS

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK
www.bls.gov/ooh/

O*NET ONLINE
www.onetonline.org

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REFERENCE
www.weddles.com/associations

NETWORK.

**WHO DO YOU KNOW?
WHO DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?**
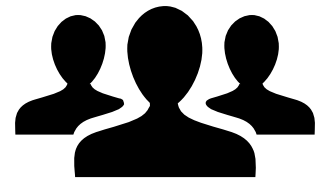
WHY NETWORK?
- Learn about different options in your field
- Research companies and positions of interest
- Find hidden opportunities that are not advertised
- Obtain referrals from those who have influence

EXAMPLES OF COMPANIES THAT HIRE APU COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS GRADUATES:

SpaceX
Boeing
Northrop Grumman
Riot Games
Epic Systems
Qualcomm
Life-Ray
PowerSettlements
Veolia Environment
Logos Bible Software

AZUSA PACIFIC
UNIVERSITY