Computer Science, B.A.

Combined Programs

B.A./M.C.S.

Qualified computer science undergraduate students who plan to earn the Master of Computer Science degree may apply for the combined Bachelor of Arts/Master of Computer Science program. The combined B.A./M.C.S. program allows students to earn both degrees in five years. The program requires a total of 140 s.h. Students are granted a B.A. when they complete all requirements for the undergraduate degree.

Students in the combined program must complete all requirements for each degree, but may count a maximum of 12 s.h. (four courses) toward both degrees. The four courses must be taken during the fourth year of undergraduate study, after admission to the combined program, and must satisfy degree requirements of both the B.A. and the M.C.S.

If students withdraw from the combined program before completing their bachelor’s degree, credit earned in the four courses is counted only toward the undergraduate degree.

A version of the combined program is now available for Grinnell College undergraduate students pursuing a B.A. degree in computer science who want to earn the M.C.S. at the University of Iowa.

Students apply for admission to the combined program during their third year as an undergraduate and enter the program at the beginning of their fourth year. They typically complete the combined program in one year after completing B.A. requirements.

Applicants to the combined program must:

- be enrolled as a B.A. student majoring in computer science at the University of Iowa;
- have completed a minimum of 80 s.h. at the time of admission to the combined program, with at least 30 s.h. earned at the University of Iowa; and
- have a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.25 and a g.p.a. of at least 3.25 in the computer science major (computed on math prerequisites and core computer science coursework taken at the University of Iowa).

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Students must submit an application for admission to the program, a statement of purpose, three letters of recommendation, and transcripts from all colleges attended; they also must apply to the Graduate College. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are not required. For more detailed information, see Prospective Students on the Department of Computer Science website.

B.A./M.S. in Business Analytics (Career Subprogram)

Students majoring in computer science who are interested in earning a master's degree in business analytics with a career subprogram may apply to the combined B.A./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to begin the study of business analytics before they complete their bachelor’s degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the business analytics program, see the M.S. in business analytics (career) in the Tippie College of Business section of the Catalog.

B.A./M.S. in Finance

Students majoring in computer science who are interested in earning a master's degree in finance may apply to the combined B.A./M.S. program offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Tippie College of Business. The program enables students to begin the study of finance before they complete their bachelor's degree. Students are able to complete both degrees in five years rather than six.

Separate application to each degree program is required. Applicants must be admitted to both programs before they may be admitted to the combined degree program. For information about the finance program, see the M.S. in finance (Tippie College of Business) in the Catalog.