

# Carleton

Department of Computer Science

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Welcome!

Congratulations on being accepted to Carleton! As the Chair of the Department of Computer Science, I am writing to welcome you to the college and to the CS department. I am delighted to hear of your interest in computer science.

You can find information [about our department](#), including a guide to the major. Our [departmental newsletter](#), the *Carleton Sentinel*, can be found there as well. We offer a wide range of courses, starting with an introductory course taught in Python and extending to an array of electives, such as Artificial Intelligence, Computer Graphics, Computer Security, Human-Computer Interaction, and Social Computing. Click here for a full description of our [courses and our curriculum](#).

One of the most exciting parts about majoring in computer science at Carleton is the senior integrative exercise, colloquially known as “[comps](#).” Each senior major works as part of a small team of students with a faculty supervisor to complete a large project, culminating in a department-wide celebration at which teams present their results to classmates, professors, family, and friends.

The Computer Science faculty at Carleton do research and publish in many areas, including computational biology, social networks, online collaborative communities, machine learning, self-healing computer networks, and data visualization. Many of our [faculty involve students in their research programs](#) during the school year and over the summer, giving students the opportunity to work on real-world problems and to publish papers and present their work at conferences.

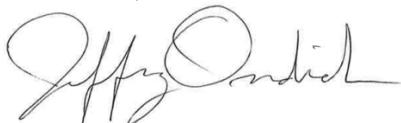
There are [many ways that our students engage](#) with the Computer Science community outside of the classroom, too. There are parties, picnics, lunches, field trips to the bowling alley, and game nights (modified recently, of course, for a COVID-19 world). A student-led group organizes group software projects and attends and runs hackathons. Some students participate in the programming contest sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery (including a 2015 Carleton team that competed in the international finals in Morocco). Faculty and students attend the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing and the Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing. There is a new [Off Campus Studies](#) program based in England, on the History of Computing. The department runs a weekly colloquium series, with talks by scholars and practitioners from around the country. For this series, we have welcomed many luminaries, including (among many others) networking pioneer Radia Perlman, Turing Award winners Fred Brooks and Ron Rivest, and scholars of technology and society Jill Lepore and Virginia Eubanks.

When they graduate from Carleton, our majors find excellent opportunities available to them—whether through employment in the technology sector, including big companies and small start-ups, or in graduate programs in computer science, often at the top schools in the country. Others become teachers, lawyers, restaurateurs, laundromat owners, opera singers, and doctors.

Perhaps the most important thing our department can offer you, though, is the expertise, enthusiasm, and dedication of [our faculty](#). We love teaching here, and we do everything we can to share that excitement with our students. We will challenge you as well as help you when you need it, all with the personal attention that Carleton can offer.

If you have questions or comments about the computer science major, or about our program in general, I would be glad to hear from you by email, at [jondich@carleton.edu](mailto:jondich@carleton.edu). We look forward to meeting you in the fall!

All the best,



Jeff Ondich  
Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science

