

Carleton

Department of Computer Science

507-222-5748

Dear Future Carl,

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 our department. I am delighted to hear that you're interested in computer science.

Our website includes information [about our department](#), including a guide to the major and our [departmental newsletter](#). We offer a wide range of courses, starting with an introductory course taught in Python and extending to an array of electives, such as Machine Learning, 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 advisor to complete a large project, culminating in a department-wide celebration.

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.

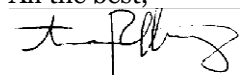
Our students [engage with the Computer Science community](#) in a variety of ways outside of the classroom as well. There are parties, picnics, lunches, and game nights. Student-led groups partner with nonprofits to use technology for social impact, aim to increase gender diversity in computing, and organize study sessions and mentoring between older and younger students. Faculty and students attend the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing and the Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing. There is an [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. Speakers have included Turing award winners, scholars of technology and society, and many folks with a wide variety of interdisciplinary and applied interests in CS and other areas.

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 cs@carleton.edu. We look forward to meeting you in the fall!

All the best,



Anna Rafferty
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Computer Science

