

Archived: September 9, 2021

Science and Technology Programs

Computer Science

Location Offered:

Nanaimo

Credential:

Diploma

Program Length:

2 Years

The Program

This program is designed to prepare students for a career as a computer programmer/programmer analyst. The program emphasizes programming skills, program design techniques as well as database and systems analysis skills. The program includes electives, and recommends students take business courses that will be of use in the computing industry. The program is designed in accordance with the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) accreditation standards.

Students who complete the diploma program will be able to complete VIU's Bachelor of Science, Major in Computer Science with an additional two years of full-time study.

Program Outline

Students are required to complete all of the courses listed in all three tables, but the courses in the third table can be completed at any time. Normally, students complete two of these courses in First Year, and the other three in the following year.

Year 1	Credits
CSCI 112 - (Applications Programming)	3
CSCI 115 - (Web Page Techniques)	3
CSCI 160 - (Computer Science I)	4
CSCI 161 - (Computer Science II)	4
CSCI 162 - (Topics in Computer Science)	4
CSCI 251 - (Systems and Networks)	3
MATH 121 - (Calculus I)	3
MATH 123 - (Logic and Foundations)	3
Additional required courses (see below)	6
Total Credits	33

Year 2	Credits
CSCI 260 - (Data Structures)	3
CSCI 265 - (Software Engineering)	3
CSCI 310 - (Intro to Human-Computer Interaction)	3
CSCI 311 - (Web Programming) <i>or</i> CSCI 375 - (Intro to Systems Analysis)	3
CSCI 331 - (Object Oriented Programming)	3
CSCI 370 - (Database Systems)	3
CSCI 400 - (Computers and Society)	3
Additional required courses (see below)	9
Total Credits	30

Additional Required Courses	Credits
In addition to the above courses, students must complete the following courses. The courses can be completed at any time, but must be completed before the diploma is awarded.	
ENGL 115 - (University Writing and Research)	3
ENGL 204 - (Business and Technical Writing)	3
Computer Science Elective (200-level or above)*	3
Electives**	6

* *Students intending on continuing into the B.Sc. Major in Computer Science should take CSCI 261 - (Computer Architecture & Assembly Language)*

** *Recommended electives include ACCT 100 - (Financial Accounting I), MGMT 192 - (Principles of Management), MGMT 292 - (Organizational Behaviour)*

Completion Requirements

Grades for individual courses are awarded as described in the Grading Scale section of this Calendar. All students taking a full course load will normally progress from one semester to the next, providing a satisfactory standing in all courses is attained.

- “D” or “F” grade: students will not be allowed to register in a sequential course if they have been awarded a “D” or an “F” grade. All “D” and “F” grades must be upgraded before students are allowed to graduate from the program.
- Students may accumulate no more than three “C-” grades. Students receiving more than three “C-” grades will be required to upgrade the relevant courses before a diploma is issued. Students with four “C-” grades may be permitted to upgrade one of these with permission of the Computer Science department Chair.
- Students must have a “C+” average in all Computer courses, and an overall “C” average to receive the diploma.
- At least 50% of the credits towards the Diploma must be completed at VIU.

Admission Requirements

- General admission requirements apply.
- English 12 with minimum “C” grade, or equivalent.
- Minimum “C+” grade in Pre-calculus 12 or Principles of Mathematics 12, or equivalent.

Notes on Admission

- Applicants lacking admission requirements may take upgrading courses. Please check with an Advisor for details.

- A minimum “B” grade in Pre-calculus 12 or Principles of Mathematics 12 is a prerequisite for the required Math courses.
- Students may complete some of the courses before enrolling in the diploma program.
- Enrolment in this program is limited. Students who meet or exceed the minimum admission requirements may not necessarily be admitted to the program.

Career Opportunities

Many career opportunities are currently available in Computer Science. The provincial and federal governments predict a continuing shortage of trained computing professionals. For more details about expected trends in computing work, please visit the WorkBC website.

Start Date and Application Deadline

The program starts in September and applications are accepted between the first business day in October and March 31.

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