

Washington State Computer Science Programs:

## Gonzaga University:

Spokane, Washington



**Requirements to apply:** High school curriculum GPA (3.7 average), SAT/ACT scores - They do not consider the writing section of either standardized test. SAT Average – 1200 with critical Reading and Math ONLY. ACT average – 26 Composite. Essay - How we gauge writing ability and learn more about the student. Extracurricular activities. Character (based on Recommendations)

**Approximate Cost:** Approximately \$45,000 (including tuition, room and board, books, fees, and spending money). You can refer to the Tuition and Fees page as well at <http://www.gonzaga.edu/Admissions/Undergraduate-Admissions/Scholarships/Tuition-Fees.asp>.

## Pacific Lutheran University:

Tacoma, Washington



**Requirements to apply (GPA/SAT recommendation):** We have no minimum GPA or standardized test scores, but our average GPA is around a 3.6, average SAT is an 1107 (Reading/Math), and our average ACT is a 25.

**Approximate cost:** Tuition is \$34,440, Room and Board is approximately \$10,100. Our average student receives \$26,700 in financial aid and scholarships and 97% of students qualify for some kind of financial aid. If a student lives within 30 miles of the University they are not required to live on-campus, although it is encouraged.

**What language is your intro course in?:** We teach our intro courses in Java.

**What makes your CS program special?:** We have dedicated, knowledgeable, and caring [faculty](#), class sizes that average around 15 in the upper division, and programs in both [Computer Science and Computer Engineering](#). One of the hallmarks of a PLU education is student-faculty interaction. A student's experience at PLU culminates with a year-long senior project that brings all of their skills and knowledge together in a larger-scale (usually group-based) development project. Our programs are accredited by the CAC and EAC commissions of [ABET](#). We send students to compete in the [ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest](#) each year, which is always a fun and challenging experience. We also host an [annual programming contest for high school students](#). Many students complete internships with companies including Intel, Weyerhaeuser, Boeing, EMC Isilon, etc. We have excellent [facilities](#) including

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Washington State Computer Science Programs:

approximately 100 computers in labs and classrooms, most housed in the Morken Center for Learning and Technology, a modern, green building which was built in 2006.

**Anything else?:** Our web site is <http://www.cs.plu.edu>, and interested students are more than welcome to contact any faculty member directly. We are happy to show people around the facilities, and to answer questions.

## Seattle University

Seattle Washington

**Requirements to Apply:** Same as any other University, if a student is accepted into Seattle U then they can declare their major of computer science.

**Approximate Cost:** They are a private institution and tuition is a flat rate of \$31,000 per year for up to 20 credits per quarter.

**What language is your intro course in?:** Mainly C++ and Unix.

**What makes their program special?:** Their senior project sequence. Seniors are formed into teams of 4 or 5 with a project advisor and a liaison from industry to work on a real-world three quarter long project with deliverables. Companies that have been recent project sponsors are Microsoft, Boeing, REI, Philips, and Nordstroms. Other differences, all courses are taught by professors, all professors required to have office hours for student help, CSSE Department also provides a full range of tutors. Contact Michael F. Smith at [mikesme@seattleu.edu](mailto:mikesme@seattleu.edu).



## University of Puget Sound:

Puget Sound, Washington

**Requirements to apply:** The unweighted high school grade point average for incoming Puget Sound students in 2011 is 3.51. The middle 50% of SAT critical reading scores range from 570 to 660. The middle 50% of ACT composite scores range from 25 to 30.

**Approximate Cost:** Total cost for 2013-14 is \$52,648, though about 65% of students get need-based financial aid.

**What language is your intro course in?:** Java

**What makes your CS program special?:** Dedicated faculty, a robust summer research program, and an established "pipeline" of graduates going to top tech

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Washington State Computer Science Programs:

companies like Amazon, Google, Microsoft. Our graduates also get hired by smaller firms and video game companies, and we have sent students on to excellent graduate programs in Computer Science.

**Anything else?:** We have local ACM and UPE student chapters, and are in the process of getting an ACM-W chapter established.

## University of Washington – Seattle:

Seattle, Washington

**Requirements to Apply:** Direct Fresman Admission – no requirements other than selecting Computer Science or Computer Engineering as intended major on UW application, usually GPA is 3.8+.

Most students apply after taking classes at UW for a year or two. Transfer/Upper Division Admission

prerequisites: 1 year of calculus, 1 quarter of English Composition, 1 quarter of lab science, 2 quarters of introductory programming.

**Approximate cost:** Tuition & Fees: \$12,383/year for 2012/2013.

**What language is your intro course in?:** Java

**What makes your CS program special?:** Lots of reasons! Some of them: we're a top-ten ranked university, we have great research faculty, and we have strong connections with local industry.

**Anything Else?:** Our department has competitive admission, and it can be really helpful to talk with us about your application or what studying in our department would look like. Please check out our website ([cs.washington.edu](http://cs.washington.edu)) and email us at [ugradadviso@cs.washington.edu](mailto:ugradadviso@cs.washington.edu) with any questions.



## University of Washington:

Tacoma, Washington

**Requirements to apply:**

<http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/enrollment-services/catalog>

**Approximate Cost:** Tuition & Fees: \$12,383/year for 2012/2013.

**What language is your intro course in?:** The programming language we start out teaching is in Java.

Experienced in C would most likely also work, but we focus mostly on Java. We are also currently looking into teaching Python as an opening language. To get into the CS major the students must have completed a minimum of 45 college credits,

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Washington State Computer Science Programs:

English Comp 101, Pre-Calculus and our first programming class. The major also requires calculus 1, statistics, a 2nd Java programming class and several general education courses. Beyond that, the rest is 300 and 400 level CS based courses.

**What makes your CS program special?:** 1. WE have great connections with local companies, particularly those in the south sound. We have students who have been hired at major companies as well, such as Intel down the road, Google, Amazon, Microsoft etc. Many of our students have jobs before they are even done with their degree and often choose an internship, which gets them one. 2. Our program is more applied and job centered with theory being a foundation. Many programs, such as the one at the Seattle campus, focus more on theory and research. It seems to me that our students have been well prepared for the job market when they graduate from our program. 3. We have relatively small class sizes, particularly at the senior level and offer the students a lot of one-on-one attention. Classes at our campus are not taught by TA's nor are they held in lecture halls with dozens or hundreds of students. 4. Our labs are currently being updated to met the latest needs of CS, on current trends and technology. 5. The University is competitively not overly difficult to be admitted to. This is especially true in comparison to PLU and Seattle's CS programs. 6. We offer personalized advising in our center to all CS students.

## **Western Washington University:**

Bellingham, Washington

**Requirements to apply (GPA):** 3.3-3.8 (is the middle 50% of students) 1560-1840 (middle 50%)

**Approximate cost:** full cost of attendance is about \$22,000 (including tuition, fees, housing, meals, books, transportation, personal supplies)

What language is your intro course in? This is potentially about to change... so let me just say that students who major in CSCI will learn at least: C, Java, Python, Scheme, as well as assorted languages for specific tasks (R, Ruby, PHP, etc) and they will get exposure to CSCI theory and systems and applications courses.

**What makes your CS program special?** I included 2 fact sheets for you. One is a fact sheet about the department as a whole, which you can print off for interested students. I also included a fact sheet for your female students who are interested in CSCI because we have a scholarship program for women who want to study computer science or math at Western. It's an awesome program and we're always looking for high achieving female students to apply. We also have a CAP project course(Corporate Alliance Program) in which our senior CSCI students work in teams on a year-long project under direct supervision from a local tech company. These have turned into internship and employment opportunities and



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Washington State Computer Science Programs:

have been a great learning experience. Anything else? I think it's great that you sent this message out and I hope we can create a pathway from your high school to Western! Let me know if you have any more questions.