Why Computer Science?
Why UW CSE?

Ed Lazowska
Bill & Melinda Gates Chair
Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
University of Washington

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UW Computer Science & Engineering

• Ranked among the top 10 programs in the nation (of >200)

• Two undergraduate programs
  – Computer Science (College of Arts & Sciences)
  – Computer Engineering (College of Engineering)

• Currently admitting ~390 Bachelors students each year
  – Up from 170/year just a few years ago
  – Hope to receive legislative support to grow to 450/year
Top 10 First-Choice Majors of UW Confirmed Incoming Freshmen

- Computer Science & Engineering
- Business Administration
- Biology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Bioengineering
- Psychology
- Nursing
- Biochemistry
- Aeronautics & Astronautics
- Civil Engineering
• Extraordinary students
  – ~30% of the UW class medalists since 2000 have been CSE majors
    • Our “fair share” would be 2%
  – 3 of the past 6 Graduate School Medal recipients
    • “Academic expertise and social awareness”
• A deep commitment to providing a top-tier education
  – Winner of 5 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards
  – Winner of the inaugural UW Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence
  – Winner of two UW Distinguished Graduate Mentor Awards
  – In a typical quarter, CSE has 2/3’s of the top-performing instructors in the 10-department UW College of Engineering, according to student course evaluations
We produce students who can design and build stuff

- Emphasis on teamwork and design
- 80% of undergraduates do at least one internship
- 25% of undergraduates participate in faculty-guided research
  - #1 school in the nation in students recognized in the past 10 years in the Computing Research Association “Outstanding Undergraduate Researchers Award” competition
- A top-5 supplier of students to Amazon.com, Google, and Microsoft (along with MIT, Stanford, Berkeley, and Carnegie Mellon)
- The predominate supplier to many leading smaller firms headquartered here
2011-14 UW CSE Student Destinations

- Amazon, Google, Microsoft: 32%
- Other large companies: 32%
- Small companies and startups: 32%
- Graduate school: 14%
- Missing or Other: 8%
- Other: 8%
Why a research-intensive university?
What can we uniquely do?

• Get students into the lab
• Make them our partners in discovery
• Prepare them for life-long learning at the forefront of knowledge and society
  • There is no field in which this is more important!
Capstone Design Courses, 2015-16

• Computational Biology
• Advanced Internet and Web Services
• Computer Animation
• Accessibility
• Digital Audio
• Virtual and Augmented Reality
• Entrepreneurship
VR/AR
2016
Community: Undergraduate TAs
Community: Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing
Inaugural NCWIT Award for Excellence in Promoting Women in Undergraduate Computing
Community: Spring picnic
Community: Summer Day Camps for Middle School Girls
There are some OK reasons to go out-of-state for college

• Get away from your boyfriend
• Get away from your mom
• Get away from the rain

Getting a better Computer Science education is not one of them!
Preparing for CSE

• Not necessarily a high school computer science course!

• Deep comfort with algebra
• Scientific reasoning
• Reading comprehension

• Attention span
• Resilience when faced with challenges