

A Guide for Transfer Admission into the
ALLEN SCHOOL
at the University of Washington – Seattle



UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS



The Allen School offers two undergraduate degrees: a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Science and a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Computer Engineering. Either of these degrees can be paired with other majors or minors on campus but you cannot major in *both* Computer Science and Computer Engineering.

Computer Science

Greater flexibility, with emphasis on software and programming

Courses outside of computing align with College of Arts & Sciences requirements

Computer Engineering

Greater emphasis on systems and hardware

Courses outside of computing align with College of Engineering requirements, including Physics

Most prerequisite coursework is shared

The same upper-division elective courses are available

SAMPLE COURSE TOPICS

- Artificial Intelligence
- Autonomous Robotics
- Computational Biology
- Computer Networks
- Computer Security
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Virtual Reality

As a non-traditional student at the Allen School, I've loved diving back into learning—whether through research on reducing bias in machine learning models or by interning at two top-tier tech companies. This journey has given me the chance to build skills and work on projects that reflect my values, making my return to school an incredibly rewarding experience.



Shawn,
Class of 2025

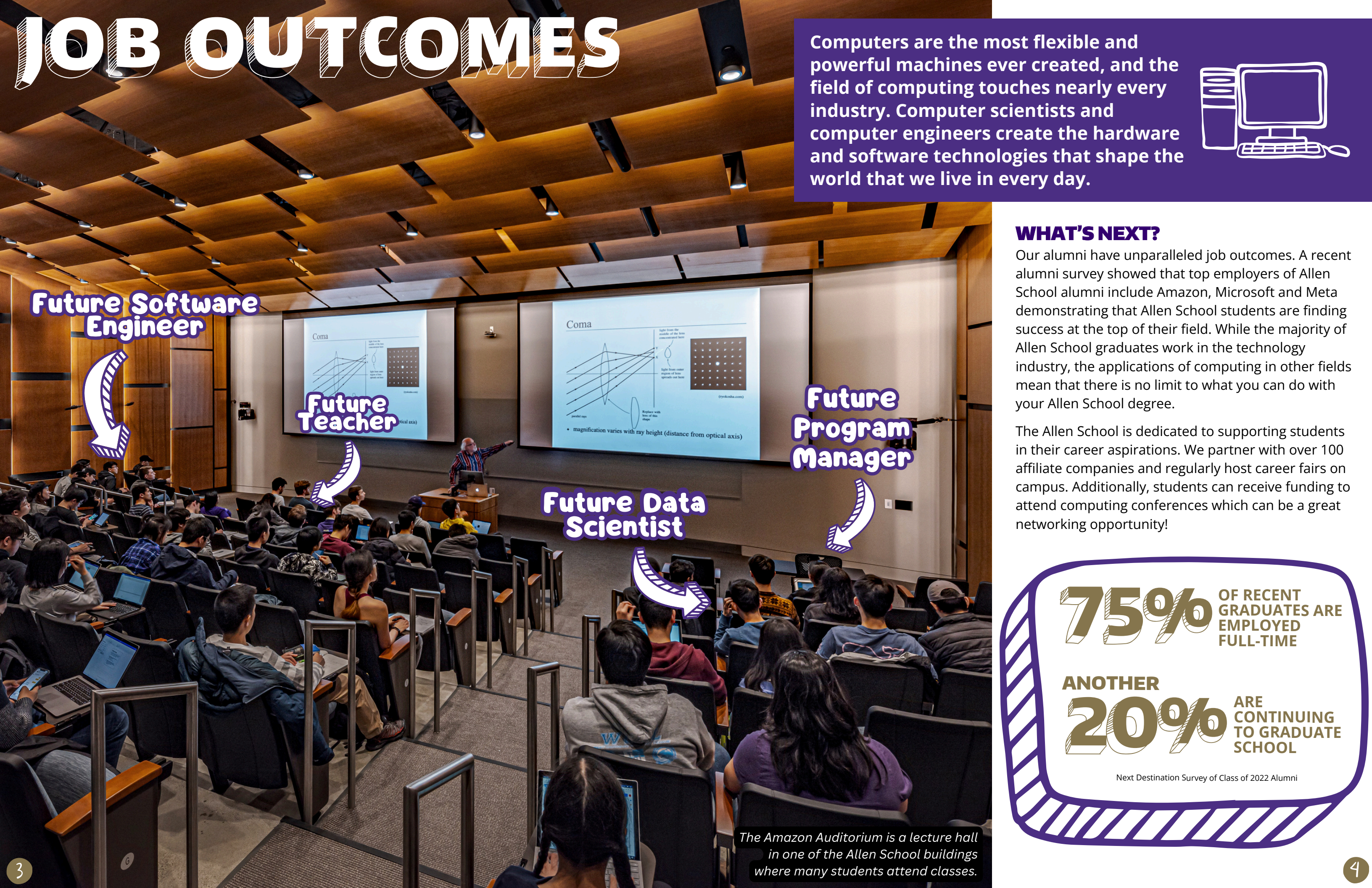
Photo of the Bill & Melinda Gates Center for Computer Science & Engineering, one of the two Allen School buildings.

INTERNSHIPS

Internships allow students to gain experience working in a role where they can apply their knowledge and skills from computing coursework to the “real world” outside of the classroom. The Allen School supports students in finding internships through career fairs with industry affiliates, resume reviews and mock interviews. Over 85% of Allen School students complete an internship before graduation!

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Researchers create new knowledge by tackling problems that have unclear solutions and producing new ways of problem-solving. Doing research as an undergraduate student provides an opportunity to learn the research mindset and build a relationship with a mentor. The Allen School’s 390R course provides a bridge into computing research for students who are brand new to research.



JOB OUTCOMES

Computers are the most flexible and powerful machines ever created, and the field of computing touches nearly every industry. Computer scientists and computer engineers create the hardware and software technologies that shape the world that we live in every day.



Future Software Engineer



Future Teacher



Future Data Scientist



Future Program Manager



WHAT'S NEXT?

Our alumni have unparalleled job outcomes. A recent alumni survey showed that top employers of Allen School alumni include Amazon, Microsoft and Meta demonstrating that Allen School students are finding success at the top of their field. While the majority of Allen School graduates work in the technology industry, the applications of computing in other fields mean that there is no limit to what you can do with your Allen School degree.

The Allen School is dedicated to supporting students in their career aspirations. We partner with over 100 affiliate companies and regularly host career fairs on campus. Additionally, students can receive funding to attend computing conferences which can be a great networking opportunity!

75% OF RECENT GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED FULL-TIME

ANOTHER 20% ARE CONTINUING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Next Destination Survey of Class of 2022 Alumni

The Amazon Auditorium is a lecture hall in one of the Allen School buildings where many students attend classes.



FINDING COMMUNITY

Members of Ability, a student group dedicated to supporting students with disabilities in the Allen School, share their experiences at an admitted student event.

Being part of the Transfer Seminar has made a huge difference in my transition to the Allen School! I've made friends with other transfer students and discovered various resources available to us through advisers, experienced transfer students, and many supportive faculty members.

Haizhen,
Class of 2026



TRANSFER COMMUNITIES

Transfer students come from a wide variety of backgrounds, ages, and life experiences. Wherever you come from, there are plenty of ways to find your home away from home on campus!

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The University of Washington has over a thousand registered student organizations including many organizations that are affiliated with the Allen School. Whether you are interested in preparing for your future career, working on technical projects, or advocating for communities that are underrepresented on campus, student organizations can help you connect with other UW and Allen School students. Learn more about our Allen School-Affiliated Student Organizations:

cs.washington.edu/academics/ugrad/student-organizations

UW RESOURCES

The UW's Seattle campus has many spaces that transfer students may find helpful when looking for their home on campus. These include the UW Office of Student Veteran Life, the Samuel E. Kelly Ethnic Cultural Center, the Q Center and more!

TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT

The Allen School provides significant support for incoming transfer students. Entering transfer students are encouraged to join CSE 390T: Transfer Seminar, a class designed to help transfer students transition smoothly and learn resources to help them throughout their time in the Allen School. Taught by an academic adviser and teaching assistants who were transfer students themselves, this course plays a key role in supporting transfer students as they enter the Allen School. Transfer students also have access to broader UW resources like the Commuter & Transfer Commons.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SERVICES

The Allen School prioritizes student success. All Computer Science and Computer Engineering students are paired with an assigned academic adviser who has extensive knowledge of Allen School degree requirements and how to navigate common challenges. Your adviser will be there to support you throughout your journey through higher education. In addition, our dedicated Diversity & Access team provides holistic support to students from underrepresented backgrounds from K-12 outreach through graduation. All students in the Allen School can anticipate a level of individualized support rarely seen at other research universities.

PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

Sometimes the best academic support comes from other students who have been in your shoes before. The Allen School Peer Advisers offer academic and career advice grounded in their experiences as current Allen School students. Academic Success Coaches, who are also current Allen School students, help students build foundational skills to better balance their academics with demands outside the classroom.

Transfer Advising & Orientation (A&O)

Before starting at the Allen School, you will attend Transfer A&O. You'll learn about the Allen School transfer experience, connect with other students, discover campus resources, and meet with academic advisers to register for classes.



Mentors from the Changemakers in Computing summer program accompany their students on a field trip to visit Microsoft.



The Undergraduate Student Services Team is excited to support incoming Allen School students.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

ALLEN SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to UW financial aid, the Allen School awards about \$500,000 in scholarships each year to Allen School students. The scholarship application is open annually. You must be a current UW Allen School student to apply for scholarships. Most scholarships are need-based but merit-based scholarships are available too.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The Allen School offers many student employment options including teaching assistantships, research assistantships, K-12 outreach positions and more. These opportunities are available on a part-time basis as students are eligible to work up to 19.5 hours per week on campus.

INTERNSHIPS

Many students spend their summers completing summer internships in the technology industry which are often very well-paid.

UW FINANCIAL AID

The UW uses a combination of grants, scholarships and loans to help make college more affordable and accessible to students. More than half of UW students receive financial aid. To be considered for financial aid, U.S. citizen and permanent resident students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the UW priority deadline. Undocumented students and those living in Washington who do not qualify for federal aid can submit the Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA).



ACADEMIC PREPARATION



UW ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Transfer applicants can meet the UW Academic Requirements in one of two ways: (1) complete a minimum of 40 transferable college credits or (2) meet the College Academic Distribution Requirements. Learn more about these requirements at: admit.washington.edu/apply/transfer/cadr/

ALLEN SCHOOL MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Allen School has additional academic requirements that students must meet before applying to either the Computer Science or Computer Engineering major. If any academic requirements remain unsatisfied by the departmental application deadline, the applicant is not yet eligible for Allen School transfer admission and will not be considered.

- Applicants must complete a minimum of 30 graded college credits. Credits granted by exam such as AP or IB exams are not considered graded credit and do not count toward this requirement.
- Applicants must have the prerequisite courses for their intended major (listed below) completed and graded before submitting their application.

MATH	MATH 124, MATH 125, & MATH 126
COMPUTER SCIENCE	CSE 143 (or CSE 123)
ENGLISH	5 credits of English Composition
NATURAL SCIENCE	CE: PHYS 121
	CS: PHYS 121, CHEM 142, BIOL 180, or 5 credits from the Natural Science Approved List

Applicants from Washington State Community or Technical Colleges can use the **UW Equivalency Guide** to determine how their courses will transfer. Guides are available for AP, IB, College in the High School, and A-Levels as well. Students with credit from 4 year and out-of-state institutions should compare their prior course descriptions to descriptions found in the **UW Course Catalog**. Unfortunately, we cannot evaluate transfer credit until after a student is admitted.

Balconies and rooftop areas in the Allen School buildings provide stunning views over Lake Washington!

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS

Don't hesitate to reach out if you have questions about your application! The **UW Office of Admissions** can be reached at askuwadm@uw.edu or contact the **Allen School** at outreach@cs.washington.edu. The **Multicultural Outreach & Recruitment Team** is dedicated to supporting students from low-income, first-generation and/or historically underrepresented backgrounds. Email them at reach@uw.edu.



The two Allen School buildings are located directly across the street from one another on the Seattle campus of the UW.

DIRECT TRANSFER ADMISSION

Some UW majors — including Computer Science and Computer Engineering — offer direct transfer admission which allows students to transfer into their major in the same quarter that they start at the UW. Running Start students are not considered transfer applicants and should apply as freshmen.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Spring Quarter

UW Transfer Application Deadline
December 15
Departmental Application Deadline
January 15
*Not Available for International Applicants

Autumn Quarter

UW Transfer Application Deadline
February 15
Departmental Application Deadline
April 5

HOW TO APPLY

The following information is for students who are currently enrolled at a college or university other than the UW's Seattle campus who will apply as transfer applicants.

The first step in transferring to the Allen School is to submit the **UW transfer application**. You should list either Computer Science or Computer Engineering as your first or second choice major. Please make sure you learn about the admissions requirements for each major that you apply to. Since Allen School applicants are considered in one pool, you should not list the other Allen School major as your second choice major. If you miss the UW application deadline, you will not be able to apply to the Allen School as a transfer applicant.

The next step for transfer applicants who want to be considered for direct transfer admission into the Allen School is to fill out an **Allen School departmental application**. The departmental application is completely separate from the UW transfer application and will generally be open for about two weeks before it is due. You can view the essay prompts in advance at engr.washington.edu/uapp/essay_questions.phtml

APPLICATION TIPS

- We recognize that transfer journeys are often complex so our academic review will focus primarily on recent coursework and courses in prerequisite subject areas.
- The UW transfer application and Allen School departmental application are reviewed separately; please include relevant information in both writing sections.



Visit our Website

Learn more about transferring into the Allen School or join Drop-In Advising on Thursdays from 2:30 - 3:30 pm PT:
cs.washington.edu/academics/ugrad/admissions/transfer

Attend an Info Session + Tour

Offered monthly on the second Thursday from 3:30-4:30 pm PT on a hybrid basis:
cs.washington.edu/academics/ugrad/admissions/info-sessions

Community College Transfer Appointments

We offer virtual transfer advising appointment for Washington Community College applicants:
uwcseappointments.as.me/transfer

Meet with a Current Student

Our Student Recruitment Representatives are excited to share their experiences with prospective transfer students:
cs.washington.edu/outreach/student-recruitment-representatives

Email Us

Email our recruitment team at outreach@cs.washington.edu

CONNECT WITH US

