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# Frequently asked questions about a CS major and CS career

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# Is CS a hard subject?

- CS is challenging for everyone
  - Some students may say that CS is easy for them, but they may not be telling the whole truth—they may want to make themselves look smart
  - Lack of experience is not the same as lack of ability
  - You are able to succeed in CS; we'll provide needed experience
  - Help is available if you want it
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# How do I get help?

- You can always get help but you have to tell the right person that you need it
  - Available Help:
    - Tutoring
    - Chief Departmental Advisor
    - Mentoring from professors and classmates (STARS)
    - Organize study groups to provide mutual support
    - Join CS clubs
    - Graduate student office hours
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# Are CS students competitive with one another?

- Some students prefer to compete with and one-up others
  - Most students benefit from working with others; helping others is a powerful way to learn
  - Learning to work well with others will help you to be more successful while a student and after you graduate
  - Pair programming in the labs will help you to work well with others
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# Are professors international?

- Some professors and graduate teaching assistants are international
  - Some may have accents and some may speak English better than others
  - You will have an opportunity to learn how to work with people from different cultures which will be good preparation for the CS workplace which has great cultural diversity
  - Ask for help and clarification if you need it
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# Are professors friendly?

- Most professors are friendly and caring
  - All professors want their students to do well but they may use different means to achieve this
  - Some professors are unaware of their impact on students
  - Some professors wait for students to approach them to ask for help
  - This is good preparation for the work world where you have to work with many different types of bosses
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# Is CS work performed alone or with others?

- While some work may be performed alone, most of the time work must be coordinated with others
  - Most CS work is done as part of a team, especially as you advance in your career
  - Working well with others (good teamwork) is one of the best predictors of career success and advancement
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# Does CS work require long hours?

- This varies by type of job and type of company you work for
  - Many companies provide flexible scheduling to allow employees to balance work and family needs
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# Is CS work all programming?

- Programming is most common only during the first few years after graduation
  - As you gain experience, more time is spent working with others to design and implement systems to solve problems and help organizations to become more effective
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# Will it be hard to find a job after graduation?

- The search for a job commonly lasts 6-12 months
- The average unemployment rate nationally is 4.6 percent
- Most CS graduates find jobs upon graduation
- If you graduate from our program you will find a good paying job that provides the possibility of professional growth and career advancement

DDD1

Janet and Aurelia please fill in statistics relevant to your institutions.

Donald Davis, 8/3/2005

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# How much do CS jobs pay?

- ❑ CS is one of the highest paying jobs in the country
- ❑ Average starting salary with a BS in CS in 2004 was \$48,656
- ❑ Typical starting salaries for our students who graduated last year were \$45,000 - \$52,000 DDD2
- ❑ Salary ranges for NSU MS graduates 58,000 – 75,000

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DDD2

Aurelia and Janet: please fill in.

Donald Davis, 8/3/2005

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# Will I lose my job to someone in another country?

- In recent years, many lower level programming jobs have been lost to countries such as India and China, but companies are beginning to question this practice
  - CS jobs with more creative content (less programming) and that involve working with others are less likely to be lost
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Questions....

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