

## **New Academic Program: BS in Computer Science - Applied (OSU Ecampus)**

### **Program Proposed Start Date**

Summer 2026

### **Program Description**

The Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science–Applied in the School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science will be housed in the College of Engineering. The program will be offered online through Ecampus. The undergraduate degree in in Computer Science – Applied was previously an option within the BS in Computer Science but the curriculum of the option was unique from the major and therefore the College of Engineering needed to elevate it to its own degree program (i.e., not an option within a major). The program is designed for students who already hold a bachelor's degree in another discipline. It provides training that enables these individuals to move into careers in software development, software engineering, information technology and related disciplines.

The BS in Computer Science-Applied equips graduates with skills in software design and development, including both technical skills related to computer programming and systems design and analysis, as well as soft skills in communication, teamwork, ethical decision making, lifelong learning and professional development.

### **Program Context**

The College of Engineering has overseen the administration of the option that will now become a stand-alone program. Since the post-baccalaureate population is distinctly different from the regular undergraduate population, creating this separate program will allow for better, more customized service to both populations of students.

### **Program Purpose/Relationship to University Mission/Strategic Plan**

A major endeavor within Oregon State's strategic plan is maintaining and expanding offerings of online courses and programs. The proposed degree is integral to this endeavor.

### **Need for the Program**

The BS in Computer Science-Applied will enable students from across the state, region and country to attain a bachelor's degree in computer science without having to physically move to campus. The proposed degree program thereby provides increased local, regional and national access to a valuable and relevant degree program that prepares students for careers in the information technology sector, which is crucial to the economic prosperity of Oregon and its communities.

As an option in the Computer Science major, the program had 2029 students enrolled in fall of 2023 and has had 2% to 20% growth over the last 5 years. Assuming a continued 2% growth in enrollment, there will be 2111 students will be enrolled by fall 2026. As such, there will be around 2500 students enrolled in 10 years. These numbers evidence the need and the subsequent success of the program.

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*July 8, 2025, Board of Trustees Meetings*

**Program Financials**

This program has essentially existed as an option in the Computer Science major for over ten years. It is a highly enrolled option, with almost 2,000 students enrolled.

**RECOMMENDATION**

All appropriate university committees and the OSU Faculty Senate have reviewed and supported the proposal. The provost recommends that the Academic Strategies Committee approve the approval of the BS in Computer Science - Applied for Summer 2026, pending the approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission.