Comparison of CS and IS&T

Technology is the foundation of our future. The focus of the Computer and Information Sciences Department’s (CIS) courses and programs of study is on understanding and solving technically complex problems. Computing drives innovation in all areas, including the sciences, business, medicine, entertainment, education, and in all aspects of our lives. Temple’s CIS Department offers two separate programs that are designed to meet the specific goals and interests of our students. Both programs – Computer Science (CS) and Information Science and Technology (IS&T) – offer degree options that include the Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BS) and Minors. Both also have substantial flexibility in electives that students can tailor to their interests and future goals.

Computer Science (CS)
The Computer Science (CS) curriculum provides an in-depth study of the science of computing, including its mathematical foundations and practical applications. There is a strong concentration on systems and application programming, using algorithms, mathematical concepts and data structures. Emphasis is on the more conceptual aspects of computing, especially as related to program design, and the study of computing systems, including hardware architecture and computer resource management. The program is targeted to students with a fundamental interest in computing, and who want to understand all that goes on ‘behind the scenes’, including the science of computing and the hardware and software infrastructure that makes advanced applications possible. Our curriculum prepares our students for a wide variety of jobs in programming, systems analysis, consulting, systems administration, networking, gaming – the list is endless. It also effectively prepares students for graduate and professional school.

Information Science and Technology (IS&T)
The Information Science and Technology (IS&T) curriculum focuses on the development of skills and knowledge in key areas of technology, including databases, web-based technologies, client-server computing, networking, security, multimedia and project management. Emphasis is on the design, analysis, development and implementation of systems and the underlying technologies that support this development. The program is targeted to students who have a strong interest in the application of computer technology in other areas such as business, science, education, government and entertainment. IS&T graduates are well-positioned to work as designers, analysts, application programmers or consultants, often in traditional application areas such as software development or in networking, databases and security areas.

Career Opportunities
The career options for both majors are excellent. Our graduates work in all industries, including pharmaceuticals, engineering, business, financial services, consulting, healthcare, education, medicine, communication, and entertainment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects double-digit growth in computing jobs in the next decade as well as a shortage of college graduates to fill the projected jobs. The fast pace of technological change keeps the computing technology field exciting, innovative and satisfying. The CIS Student Career Assistance Center services our students by coordinating internship, co-op and job opportunities, assisting students with resumes, and preparing students for interviews.

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