Computing and The Arts

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Computing and the Arts is an interdepartmental major designed for students who wish to integrate work in computing with work in one of five arts disciplines: architecture, art, history of art, music, or theater studies.

For students with a computing perspective, issues in these disciplines present interesting and substantive problems: how musicians use computers to compose; the limitations of current software tools used by artists; the types of analyses done by art historians; challenges in designing and using virtual sets in the theater; ways that virtual worlds might help to envision new forms of artistic expression; and lessons that can be learned from trying to create a robotic conductor or performer.

For students with an artistic perspective, computing methods offer a systematic approach to achieving their vision. A foundation in computer science allows artists to understand existing computing tools more comprehensively and to use them more effectively. Furthermore, it gives them insight into what fundamentally can and cannot be done with computers, so they can anticipate the future development of new tools for computing in their field.

Prerequisites

The prerequisite for all students in the major is either CPSC 100 or CPSC 112, which should be taken during the first year. There are two additional prerequisites for the Art track, ART 111 and ART 114. There are no additional prerequisites for the Architecture, History of Art track, or the Music track. Additional prerequisites for the Theater Studies track are THST 110 and THST 111. There is no required favorable review of studio work for admission to the major in any track.

Requirements of the Major

Twelve term courses are required beyond the prerequisites, not including the two-term senior project. Six of the courses must be in Computer Science, including CPSC 201, 202, and 223. Students are advised to complete CPSC 202 and 223 by the end of the sophomore year. MATH 244 may be substituted for CPSC 202. The six remaining courses are selected from one of the arts disciplines. Students choose a track in architecture, art, history of art, music, or theater studies. All requirements for a single track must be satisfied, as specified below.

Students in the Class of 2020 and 2021 With DUS approval, students may follow the requirements listed here that include a larger selection of computer science courses or they may follow the course requirements that were in place when they declared their major.

The Architecture track requires the following courses in addition to the Computer Science courses listed above: (1) ARCH 150, 200, 260, 262; (2) two elective courses from any of the three concentrations: Design; History, Theory, and Criticism; and Urban Studies; (3) two courses from CPSC 475, 478, or 479; and (4) one additional intermediate or advanced CPSC course (excluding CPSC 490).

The Art track requires the following courses in addition to the Computer Science courses listed above, as well as a sophomore review at the School of Art: (1) two 100-level courses beyond ART 111 and ART 114, such as ART 132 or ART 145; (2) two courses in Art at the 200 or 300 level, such as ART 285 or ART 369; (3) ART 395 or ART 397; (4) one course in Art at the 400 level, such as ART 495; (5) two courses selected from CPSC 475, 478, and 479; (6) one additional intermediate or advanced Computer Science course (excluding CPSC 490). Seniors following the art track are charged an annual $200 studio fee and will have access to shared studio and facilities in the School of Art.

The History of Art track requires the following courses in addition to the Computer Science courses listed above: (1) one introductory, 100-level, History of Art course; (2) two History of Art courses at the 200, 300, or 400 level (the courses must represent two different areas as defined in the History of Art program description); (3) one studio art course (students may need to take a prerequisite course in Art to prepare for the studio course); (4) HSAR 401; (5) one 400-level seminar in History of Art; (6) two courses selected from CPSC 437, 475, 478, or 479, one of which must be CPSC 478 or 479; (7) one additional intermediate or advanced Computer Science course (excluding CPSC 490).

The Music track requires the following courses in addition to the Computer Science courses listed above: (1) MUSI 315; (2) five term courses chosen from MUSI 231, 259, 316, 320, 409, 420, 421, 481, 495; (3) CPSC 431; (4) CPSC 432; (5) one additional intermediate or advanced Computer Science course (excluding CPSC 490).

The Theater Studies track requires the following courses in addition to the Computer Science courses listed above: (1) THST 210; (2) three courses in dramatic literature or theater history; (3) two upper-level Theater Studies production seminars in design, directing, or playwriting; (4) CPSC 431 or 432; (5) CPSC 478 or 479; (6) one additional intermediate or advanced Computer Science course (excluding CPSC 490).

Credit/D/Fail Courses taken Credit/D/Fail may not be counted toward the major.
SENIOR REQUIREMENT
The senior project requires two terms: one term of CPAR 491, and one term of ARCH 491, ART 496, HSAR 499, one from MUSI 496–499, or THST 471 or 491, depending on the track chosen. The project must be approved by the DUS and be acceptable to both departments. Students must submit a written report, including an electronic abstract and webpage(s).

ADVISING AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAM
The entire program of each student majoring in Computing and the Arts must be approved by the DUS.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR
Prerequisites All tracks—CPSC 100 or CPSC 112; Art track—ART 111, 114, and sophomore review; Theater Studies track—THST 110, 111
Number of courses 12 term courses beyond prereqs (not incl senior project)
Specific courses required All tracks—CPSC 201, 202, 223; Architecture track—ARCH 150, ARCH 200, 260, 262; 2 courses from CPSC 475, 478, or 479; Art track—ART 395 or 391; 2 from CPSC 475, 478, 479; History of Art track—2 from CPSC 437, 475, 478, 479, including 1 of CPSC 478, 479; 1 intro, 100-level course; HSAR 401; Music track—CPSC 431, 432; MUSI 315; Theater Studies track—CPSC 431 or 432; CPSC 478 or 479; THST 210
Distribution of courses All tracks—3 addtl courses in Comp Sci, incl 1 intermediate or advanced course beyond specific reqs (excluding CPSC 490); Architecture track—2 courses from the concentrations: Design; History, Theory, and Criticism; and Urban Studies; Art track—2 courses in Art at 100 level (excluding prereqs), 2 at 200 or 300 level, and 1 at 400 level as specified; History of Art track—2 courses in different areas of History of Art at 200, 300, or 400 level; 1 sem at 400-level in History of Art; 1 studio art course; Music track—5 courses from MUSI 231, S290, 125, 316, 320, 409, 420, 421, 495; Theater Studies track—3 courses in dramatic lit or theater history; 2 production sems, as specified
Substitution permitted MATH 244 for CPSC 202
Senior requirement All tracks—Two-term senior project including CPAR 491, approved by DUS; Architecture track—ARCH 491; Art track—ART 496; History of Art track—HSAR 499; Music track—one from MUSI 496–499; Theater Studies track—THST 471 or 491

Courses
* CPAR 291a or b, Special Projects Staff
Individual research project in computing and the arts. Requires a faculty supervisor and permission of the director of undergraduate studies. May be taken more than once for credit.
* CPAR 491a or b, Senior Project in Computing and the Arts Staff
Individual research project for majors in Computing and the Arts. Requires two faculty supervisors, one from Computer Science and one from the department in the chosen track. Requires permission of the director of undergraduate studies. The student must present both a verbal and a written report describing the results of the project. May be taken more than once for credit.