Frequently asked questions about a CS major and CS career
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
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
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
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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
Janet and Aurelia please fill in statistics relevant to your institutions.
Donald Davis, 8/3/2005
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
- Salary ranges for NSU MS graduates 58,000 – 75,000
Aurelia and Janet: please fill in.
Donald Davis, 8/3/2005
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.
Questions....