



# JACOB

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

### ABOUT MY MAJOR

I would describe Computer Science as a multidisciplinary field of that combines math, science, and theory. Usually when you think of computer science, you think about coding all day, but there's a lot of thought that goes into how computers work and about the theory of computing. So that's a big part of it. It's not just coding like people would probably think!

### CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I had no idea what I wanted to do when I came to college. When I was younger, I wanted to be an engineer, but I really didn't want to go through all that math. I knew I was good at math and slightly good at science, and I felt like I had some critical thinking skills. I came to college expecting to change my interests, especially because I had no coding experience in high school. Even though I didn't have a lot of experience, I found out that I liked the Computer Science major.

### MINORS & CERTIFICATES

My minor is in Data Science, which is a new minor with the computer science program. I'd say that pairs well with the current job market. Mathematics is a good minor. I know people who have Business minors or Graphic Design minors too. Really, you can pair Computer Science with anything since it is so interwoven with any field.

## INTERNSHIPS

The job that I will be taking next year started out as an internship. I first got that internship the summer after my sophomore year. Then I came back for another year and I was offered a full time position.

Around the Cedar Valley, there's a lot of different places that you can intern at. Dr. Wallingford is the head of the department and he's always emailing about different opportunities. I know a lot of people who've interned at John Deere or other software places. Senior year you complete a class doing computer science research. My research last semester was predicting the political leaning of states and congressional districts based on food insecurity data. I got data from the organization Feeding America for the past 10 years, then I moved the data around, cleaned it, and drew conclusions from it with machine learning algorithms.

## CAREERS

I've had my job for a year now after my internship. I'm an application analyst at an insurance company in Madison. I work on applications for an insurance company, maintaining them in building new features or new products for them, and making sure it works both outward facing, meaning the public can see it, and inward facing products, meaning only people inside the company. There's a couple of people that I've been in class with who work in software development as well. One of them works at Amazon and one of them works at Epic. I know people who have a business minor and they are looking at going into business.