



LANCE

COMPUTER SCIENCE

ABOUT MY MAJOR

I'm a Computer Science major, so we do everything within technology. My major is highly unique in that there are so many opportunities within it. People misunderstand and assume we're all nerds. We are definitely nerds. But we are also a fun group of people! People also think that you have to be really smart. Intelligence comes with it, but you don't have to have this overwhelming knowledge of computers to be successful. If you try and work hard, you can be as successful as anybody else!

CHOOSING MY MAJOR

I started at UNI as a Finance and Economics major, but for personal reasons I went to community college and got my Associate of Arts degree. I came back to UNI and worked with Heather Asmus. Initially, I thought I would major in Mathematics or Teaching, but after some further thought we landed on Computer Science. In my time back, I've really made a lot of progress!

SKILLS

Basic computer knowledge is really important. You don't have to be an expert, but you do need to have some basic understanding of how computers work. You need to have some basic math skills. People will think we're really good at math, but I'm not that phenomenal at math. It's definitely one of the things that you'll get better at as you do it. Communication is a important thing.

MINORS & CERTIFICATES

I'm an Economics minor. Management minors or anything within business would be helpful because corporations are looking for the next manager of a group of people. Having a background in some form of Business Application is always good. Anything digital like Graphic Design or Interactive Digital Studies would pair well too. Those are important because people use HTML and CSS, which are kinds of frameworks for web design.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

I'm involved in two student organizations. I'm the vice president of UNISEC, the cybersecurity club. UNISEC allows me to build a better skill set within cybersecurity. For example, we have a competition coming up. We're trying to compete and have the chance to set up machines and do real-world applications, like experience what a real cyber-attack could be due to a system that's not set up properly or has vulnerabilities. It gives you that real-world feel without the actual consequences of it.

I am also a general member of the Computer Club, which is like robotics. We participate in competitions and compete against other colleges and students who have the same understanding and level of education as we do.

CAREERS

I'm looking for jobs in Software Development or Cybersecurity. Those two areas are some of the core foundational areas of study at UNI. Currently, I'm looking at jobs at Epic in Wisconsin. One of the jobs is working on software that health care providers use. When you go to the doctor's office, the software the doctor is using to input all of your data is the software they'd be working on within the networking side of things. With cyber security, that's focusing on controlling policies and creating preventative measures to prevent ransomware and other things from occurring.

Some of my good friends are going into management positions directly out of college. Others are working for IT firms where their jobs are focused on going to clients and helping them set up systems for just one company. Others are going into careers that involve teaching.