



<http://www.cis.uab.edu>

Top Reasons to Study Computer Science at UAB

Scholarship Availability: For outstanding high school students, UAB offers several scholarships to incoming freshmen, including the following (<http://www.cis.uab.edu/undergrad/scholarships.php>):

- **Academic Excellence Award:** renewable; \$8,000 per year; 33-36ACT and 3.5 GPA
- **University Scholars Award:** renewable; tuition/fees + \$1,000 per year; 29-32ACT and 3.5 GPA
- **Green and Gold Scholarship:** renewable; \$3,500 per year; 27-28ACT and 3.5 GPA
- **Blazing Scholar Award:** renewable; \$2,000 per year; 25-26 ACT and 3.5 GPA

The CIS Department offers the Joseph Fontana Scholarship each year to two CIS students (typically awarded to Junior and Senior students). This scholarship provides \$4,000 over the academic year. The recently established Joyce Iannuzzi fellowship provides \$2,000 to a CIS undergraduate each year. The Department also awards on average 10 CSEMS scholarships each year, valued at \$3,000.

Excellence in Research and Service: UAB is the largest employer in the state of Alabama and is the *only* school in Alabama with the highest research rating (“RU/VH”), which is based on grant funding and PhD production. The University has over \$500M in external funding this year, which is several times that of all other universities in Alabama *combined*. UAB ranks among the top 20 universities in the nation in NIH funding. *U.S. News and World Report* has ranked 11 programs at UAB as among the top in the country. Among southeastern universities, UAB is also a leading member of Internet2.

Research in the CIS department is funded by the Army Research Office (ARO), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), International Business Machines (IBM), National Science Foundation (NSF), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Office of Naval Research (ONR).

Outstanding Faculty: The 11 professors and instructors in the CIS Department obtained their degrees from the top schools in the country (e.g., Cal Tech, Cornell, Northwestern, Pennsylvania, and Vanderbilt). In addition to being leaders in their fields, our professors are dedicated to spending time with students.

Excellent Facilities: Because UAB is just over 30 years old, the buildings and facilities are very modern. Recent construction includes the new Blount Hall dormitory, multiple buildings on the academic and medical campuses, and a brand new state-of-the-art student recreation center.

UAB CIS recently acquired a 13 megapixel, nine tile visualization wall that measures approximately 10' wide by 8' high. UAB CIS IT infrastructure includes a central server facility housing the departmental servers, six computer labs for classroom instruction and student use, and five laboratories in support of the research groups within the UAB CIS department. The computers in the CIS department laboratories are replaced every three years to remain modernized.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities: Each summer, CIS undergraduates are awarded summer internships to participate in special research programs sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The students participating in these opportunities continue their research throughout the academic year and prepare research talks and papers that are published at regional conferences. Over the past two years, CIS students placed in the top 3 at the ACM Mid-southeast conference in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

For undergraduate students with a 3.5 GPA, there is an opportunity to do Honors research with faculty members. There is a special course available that allows a student to be mentored by a faculty member in a manner that provides the student a taste of the graduate school experience. Students participating in CIS Honors receive a special designation on their diploma at graduation.

During Fall 2005, the CIS department created an Undergraduate Honors Research Lab to host those students participating in Honors research. The students in this special lab will have exclusive access to high-end computers, with accommodations similar to those of doctoral students.

Programming Contest Team: Each year, the CIS department sends our top 9 students to compete in the annual ACM programming contest (held the last few years in Melbourne, Florida). To prepare students for this competition, a new course has been introduced in the curriculum that teaches students problem solving techniques not typically covered in core courses. In 2005, the UAB programming team placed among the top 25 out of 64 universities and had the highest score among Alabama Universities.

Fastest Computer in the State of Alabama: The CIS department owns the record for the fastest computer in the state of Alabama. The department recently received an NSF grant to procure a 128-node cluster (256 processors) with each node having dual 3.2 GHz Xeon processors with 4GB RAM and a 80GB hard-drive. The cluster could achieve a theoretical peak performance of 1.638 trillion floating-point operations per second, which would make it the fastest supercomputer in the state of Alabama, and among the 500 fastest computers in the world (based on the 2004 Top 500 Supercomputer ranking). The cluster will be used for both teaching and research purposes.

Alumni/Student Accomplishments: Our alumni have gone on to do very impressive things in computer science. Alumni of the CIS department work at Microsoft, Google, IBM, Sun, NASA, and many other leading companies and organizations. Several of our alumni have also gone on to graduate school at other top universities (e.g., Harvard, Duke). Many of our students also intern at top companies, such as Google, Microsoft, and Motorola. Most recently, alumnus Dr. Stephen Brossette was named as one of *MIT Technology Review's* "Top 100 Innovators."

ACM - Student Life/Seminar Series: There is a diverse set of social and educational activities that are organized by the student chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). The UAB student ACM sponsors monthly movie nights, camping trips, and also assists with guest speakers who visit the department to talk about computer science topics.

Life in Birmingham: With a metropolitan population of over one million people, Birmingham is Alabama's largest city. So there's plenty to see, plenty to do, and plenty to experience, from exciting attractions and colorful events to friendly neighborhood hangouts. Because UAB is centrally located, you don't have to go far from campus to hit the highlights. All of Birmingham's best bets are just minutes away. America's Most Livable Communities, a project of Partners for Livable Communities, has listed Birmingham as one of America's best places to live, work, and play.

For more information about UAB for prospective students, please visit <http://students.uab.edu/to-do-list/>
For more information about the CIS department, please visit <http://www.cis.uab.edu>