Careers in Computer Science

Computer Science is a great career choice:

As a group, people employed in the computer science fields earn some of the highest average starting salaries among those holding bachelor's degrees.

In terms of ***starting*** salaries, the average starting salary taken over all computer science related disciplines, broken down by level of education is as follows.

- Associates degree (2 years of college) is $38,100.
- Bachelor's degree (3-4 years of college) is $56,201.
- Master's degree is $60,000.
- Ph.D. computer engineers received average starting salaries of $92,500.

According to the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, earnings for computer and information systems ***managers*** vary by specialty and level of responsibility. Median annual earnings of these managers are $101,580. The middle 50 percent earn between $79,240 and $129,250.

Careers in Computer Science

Computer science and the related fields of Computer Engineering, Software Engineering and Information Science offer a strong educational foundation with many employment opportunities.

Computer Engineer: The work of a computer engineer is grounded in the hardware of computers and they must understand how computers are designed and built as well as how computers interface with both human beings and other computers. Computer engineers often find themselves working on new "state of the art" products. Think of your favorite "tech gadget". You can thank computer engineers for creating it. Usually requires an associate or bachelors degree.

Software Engineer/Developer:
Computer software engineers design, develop, test and evaluate the software and systems that enable computers to perform their many applications. Software engineers learn how to use programming languages that allow them to create code that a computer can execute. Every operating system, office application, interactive website and computer game that you can think of was created by a software engineer. Usually require an associate or bachelors degree.

Information, Database and Network Managers:
Individuals in these fields work at maintain companies organizational technology infrastructure. This is the type of work for which the new information technology (IT) programs explicitly aim to educate students. Usually requires a bachelors or masters degree.

Computer Scientist: Computer Scientists devise new ways to use computers and develop effective ways to solve computing problems. A career path in this area can involve advanced graduate work, followed by a position in a research university or industrial research and development laboratory; it can involve entrepreneurial activity such as was evident during the dot-com boom of the 1990s; or it can involve a combination of the two.

Top 10 Reasons to Major in Computers

1. Computing is part of everything we do!
Computing and computer technology are part of just about everything that touches our lives from the cars we drive, to the movies we watch, to the ways businesses and governments deal with us.

2. Expertise in computing enables you to solve complex, challenging problems.
Computing requires and develops capabilities in solving deep, multidimensional problems requiring imagination and sensitivity to a variety of concerns.

3. Computing enables you to make a positive difference in the world.
Computing drives innovation in the sciences (human genome project, AIDS vaccine research, environmental monitoring and protection just to mention a few), and also in engineering, business, entertainment and education. If you want to make a positive difference in the world, study computing.

4. Computing offers many types of lucrative careers.
Computing jobs are among the highest paid and have the highest job satisfaction.

5. Computing jobs are here to stay, regardless of where you are located.
There are far more computing jobs than qualified people to fill them in the United States. The Bureau of Labor Statistics says computing has the greatest potential for new jobs through 2020.

6. Expertise in computing helps you even if your career choice is something else.
Having a computing major will provide you with a foundation of knowledge that will serve as a competitive advantage to you in any career, in whatever field you choose.

7. Computing offers great opportunities for true creativity and innovativeness.
Creating high-quality computing solutions is a highly creative activity, and computing supports creative work in many other fields.

8. Computing has space for both collaborative work and individual effort.
Computing is often about being part of a team that requires people with many different kinds of skills. Yet there is also plenty of space for individual flair and imagination.

9. Computing is an essential part of well-rounded academic preparation.
An increasing number of universities and employers see successful completion of a computer science course as a sign of academic well-roundedness.

10. Future opportunities in computing are without boundaries.
We cannot even begin to imagine all the ways that you can make a contribution to it and it can make your life's work exciting and real.