

COMPUTER SCIENCES KICKSTART PROGRAM FOR PROFESSIONALS, CAPSTONE CERTIFICATE

HOW TO GET IN

HOW TO GET IN ADMISSIONS

University Special Student Services is the admitting office for all University Special students. However, the Department of Computer Sciences (<http://www.cs.wisc.edu/academics/graduate-programs/>) makes the final admission decision upon review of all applicant materials.

- Deadline: July 1

Applications received after the deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Please contact kickstart@cs.wisc.edu for assistance with applying.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution in a non-Computer Sciences related area.
- Preferred minimum bachelor's degree GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Have mathematical reasoning and logical thinking proficiency.
- GRE is not required.
- International applicants must demonstrate English proficiency by submitting evidence of English language proficiency through one of the following options:
 - Minimum TOEFL internet (iBT), on or after January 21, 2026: 5.0 out of 6.0
 - Minimum TOEFL (before January 21, 2026): 92 out of 120
 - Minimum IELTS: 7.0
 - Duolingo English Test: 125
 - Earned a bachelor's degree from an institution taught entirely in English

APPLICATION STEPS

Submit an online application for admission (<https://specialstudents.wisc.edu/apply/>) as a University Special student, selecting UNCS Capstone Certificate and the program: Computer Science Kickstart Program.

Submit the following materials with the application:

1. Resume/CV that includes educational history and professional experience.
2. Transcripts of all previous college work.
3. If English is not your primary language, you must submit evidence of English language proficiency through one of the following options:

- Minimum TOEFL internet (iBT), on or after January 21, 2026: 5.0 out of 6.0
- Minimum TOEFL (before January 21, 2026): 92 out of 120
- Minimum IELTS: 7.0
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- Earned a bachelor's degree from an institution taught entirely in English

After a decision has been made, the Program Coordinator will contact you by email to inform you of the decision and inform you of the next steps.

ENROLLMENT

Admitted applicants receive a formal letter of admission to UW–Madison from University Special Student Services along with general enrollment information.

The Department of Computer Sciences will send an email to admitted applicants with specific information pertaining to enrollment in courses and completion of the capstone program.

Additional detail about the enrollment process is provided on the University Special Student Services enrollment page (<https://specialstudents.wisc.edu/enrollment/>).