Expanding Computer Science Principles in Connecticut

Thanks to generous funding from the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation, UTeach Computer Science will be expanding access to their College Board–endorsed UTeach CS Principles course.

What is available?

48 high school teachers will be selected to receive $500 stipends and a combination of comprehensive online and in-person training and support during the summer of 2018 (40 hours total).

Note: Priority will be given to campuses planning to offer AP CS Principles during the 2018–2019 school year.

Participating teachers will receive the following at NO COST:

- Comprehensive AP Computer Science Principles curriculum and teacher support materials
- Year-long implementation support services
- Online national community of practice

How do I learn more?


Workshop dates:

- 6-week online workshops
  - June 17–July 21 and July 8–August 18
- 5-day in-person workshop at the Connecticut River Academy in East Hartford
  - July 23–27

Contact us with questions at info@uteachcs.org.

Visit uteachcs.org.
**UTeach CS Principles (CSP)** is a complete high school curriculum—designed by University of Texas at Austin computer scientists and experienced high school computer science teachers—that introduces students to the big ideas in the field of computer science through inquiry- and project-based learning approaches.

The curriculum is designed to engage students from diverse backgrounds and those who are new to computing. The course has been refined over five years in about 300 classrooms across the country.

**UTeach CSP** engages all students in authentic, project-based learning to develop computational thinking through:

- Collaborative problem solving
- Creative design of unique solutions
- Data representation through modeling and simulations
- Algorithmic reasoning

### UTeach CSP Results

Around 100 classrooms piloted UTeach CS Principles in 2016–17, the first year the College Board offered the AP CSP exam. Overall, 83% students in UTeach CSP passed—earning at least a score of 3 out of 5—versus 74% in the nation.

#### Percentage of Students Passing the AP CS Principles Exam

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>UTeach CSP</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All students</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female students</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic students</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Native/American/Alaskan/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>59%</td>
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An explicit aim of UTeach CS Principles is to broaden participation in CS among girls and other traditionally underrepresented students, and those groups also outperformed their peers across the country. Female and male students did equally well in UTeach CSP, with 83% passing, while nationally only 70% of females passed. Among underrepresented minority students, 15% more passed if they took UTeach CSP. At the same time, the percentage of female students (31%) and underrepresented minorities (22%) enrolling in UTeach CSP were nearly the same as the percentage enrolling nationally (30% and 26%, respectively).

### Who should teach the course?

Teachers with any content background or level of experience who have an interest in teaching computer science are welcome. No knowledge or experience with computer science or programming is required. The UTeach Computer Science professional learning model is designed to leverage the knowledge and expertise of all community members to enhance the experiences and competencies of participating teachers.

Teachers interested in teaching UTeach CS Principles are encouraged to attend one of these training opportunities: a 5-day in-person summer workshop, a 6-week summer online professional learning course, or an 8-week online course in the fall or spring.

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