

Technical excellence. Whole-brain thinking. Highly interdisciplinary work.

Computer Science at Northwestern University embodies these three core values. Now in our fourth year of an ambitious growth initiative, we are in the process of hiring 20 tenure-track faculty members, more than doubling the size of our faculty. We are driven by the goal of constantly pushing the boundaries of the field with exceptional work in programming languages, machine learning, robotics, network security, theoretical computer science, artificial intelligence, computational imaging, human computer interaction, high-performance computing, networking, and personalized education.

New Faculty

Jointly Appointed CS+X Faculty

Four tenure-track faculty joined in “CS+X” collaborations with other disciplines:



Ben Golub (*Harvard / economics*) theory of social and economic networks



Maia Jacobs (*Harvard / preventative medicine*) new technology design to support chronic disease management



Matthew Kay (*University of Michigan / communication*) uncertainty communication, usable statistics, personal informatics



Annie Lang (*University of Pennsylvania / economics*) economic theory, applied machine learning methods in social sciences

Faculty of Instruction

Two teaching faculty joined in response to continued CS course demand: **Kate Compton** (*UC Santa Cruz*) and **Branden Ghena** (*UC Berkeley*).



By the Numbers

Faculty: 42 tenure track, 9 teaching track

Undergraduate Students: ~700 majors
(up 50% over 5 years; 28% women)

Graduate Students: 109 PhD, 104 MS in CS

Enrollment: 7,550 (up 88% over 5 years)

Programs

Partnering with the Kellogg School of Management, [we launched the MBAi program](#), a joint degree program addressing the intersection of business and technology management.

We congratulated our [inaugural Master's in AI class](#). Graduates landed full-time positions as software engineers, data scientists, and consultants at Fortune 500 companies, including Amazon, Encyclopedia Britannica, Microsoft, Capital One, and Deloitte.

Diversity Initiatives

Northwestern will become a [BRAID affiliate](#). BRAID trains faculty/chairs to support diversity within CS departments.

This year [we welcomed six faculty members](#), of which three are women, making this the most gender-balanced hiring season in recent years.

We sent more than 60 students to the Grace Hopper Celebration and more than 40 to the Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing.

COVID-related Work

Our researchers developed a time-saving [AI tool for COVID researchers](#). CAVIDOTS searches scientific literature, predicting the most useful results and generating a short, easy-to-skim summary of each.

Northwestern Engineering collaborated with Chicago startup Rheaply to create [Emergency Resource Exchange \(ERx\)](#), a central hub that connects Illinois healthcare providers with PPE, test kits, ventilators, and other supplies.

CS+X Connections

CS+X Our [CS+X](#) interdisciplinary initiatives continue to flourish.

Our [new Institute for Data, Econometrics, Algorithms, and Learning \(IDEAL\)](#) unites Northwestern University, Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago, and University of Chicago to answer theoretical data science questions.

In collaboration with the School of Communication, [we launched the Center for Human-Computer Interaction + Design](#), which will develop the future of HCI at home, work, and play.

The [CS+Law Faculty Talks](#) gathered faculty interested in the intersection of CS and law, fostering research collaboration and leading to several joint NSF grants to address access to justice.

Awards

Ulyana Kurylo ('20), Alisa Liu ('20), Maxine Whitely ('20) received [honorable mentions in CRA Undergraduate Research Awards](#).

Akshat Thirani ('16) Philip House ('15), Sachin Lal ('16), James Hedrick (PhD '19) were listed in [Forbes' "30 Under 30"](#) for cofounding Amper Technologies.

Professor/Chair Samir Khuller received the [2020 CRA-E Undergraduate Research Faculty Mentoring Award](#) for outstanding mentorship on admission of students to research-focused graduate programs.

Professor Ken Forbus and PhD student Kezhen Chen received [Best Paper Award at KR2ML Workshop at NeurIPS 2019](#).

Professor Ian Horswill was honored with a [University Teaching Award](#).