

Northwestern Computer Science

McCORMICK SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING

By the Numbers

Faculty: 46 tenure track, 15 clinical and faculty of instruction, one research faculty member, and 31 affiliated faculty

Enrollment: 9,176 (AY 2025-26)

Undergraduate Students: 553 majors, 77 minors

Artificial Intelligence Minor: 48 students

Machine Learning and Data Science Minor
(joint with Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences): 89 students

Graduate Students: 183 MS and 139 PhD

MBAi (joint with the Kellogg School of Management): 82 students

MSAI: 80 students

PhD in Computer Science and Learning Sciences
(joint with the School of Education and Social Policy): 22 students

PhD in Technology and Social Behavior
(joint program in CS and Communication): 24 students

New Faculty

New Core Tenure-Track CS Faculty



Ruohan Zhang
Assistant Professor of
Computer Science

Named Professorships

McCormick Advisory Council Professor



Branden Ghena
Associate Professor of Instruction

Pioneer Professor of Practice



Joshua DeAndrea
Assistant Clinical Professor

Advisory Board

The members of the new [Northwestern Computer Science Advisory Board](#) are helping us advance our core missions in teaching and research while remaining agile and forward-thinking in response to the rapidly evolving higher education landscape. We appreciate the guidance and partnership of members **Bill Bliss**, **Tania Neild**, **Stephen Pratt**, **Prabhakar Raghavan**, **Shriram Revankar**, **Francesca Rossi**, **Valerie Taylor**, **Manuela M. Veloso**, and **Todd Warren**.

New Research Center

Han Liu is a leader of the [AI-Driven, Rapid, Experimental Automation Machine \(DREAM\) Cloud Lab](#), a new US NSF protein-engineering facility. DREAM aims to accelerate the development of new medicines, sustainable materials, agricultural technologies, and other biotechnology innovations.

Undergraduate Program

Designed to bridge the gap between academic computer science and applied AI, our [new AI major](#) prepares students to become both skilled builders and critical thinkers. Students will gain a practical understanding of how intelligent systems are designed, deployed, and used responsibly.

Our [Research Track](#) is designed to provide third-year students majoring in computer science with a structured and mentored introduction to the research process.

Undergraduate students in computer science have the opportunity to declare an optional [major concentration](#) in one of the following sub-fields:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Computer Hardware and Architecture
- Foundations
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Quantum Computing
- Robotics
- Security and Privacy
- Software Engineering and Programming Languages
- Systems

Zach Wood-Doughty is the PI of a US NSF REU Site ([CCF-2447155](#)). The eight-week summer program introduces undergraduate students to a rigorous research environment in which they will develop the skills and confidence to conduct computer science research at the intersection of AI, security, and privacy.

Awards and Honors

The Northwestern CS community is recognized for their accomplishments in research, education, and mentorship.

Faculty Awards

Connor Bain and **Aravindan Vijayaraghavan** earned 2026 Northwestern University Teaching Awards.

Darren Gergle was inducted to the ACM SIGCHI Academy.

Nikos Hardavellas was named among the five National Quantum Algorithm Center Grand Challenges awardees.

Manling Li was named Northwestern Engineering's Kuruganti Junior Faculty Fellow.

Sara Owsley Sood received the Linzer Award for Faculty Service.

Michael Rubenstein was selected for a NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts Fellowship and a Chief of Naval Research Fellowship.

Uri Wilensky was awarded the 2025 Yidan Prize for Education Research.

Student and Alumni Awards

CS + LS PhD alum **Natalie Araujo Melo** (PhD '26, MS '25) earned the 2026 Network of the Learning Sciences in Canada Doctoral Dissertation Award for Excellence.

PhD student **Maryam Azmandian** won the 2026 Windy City Case Competition.

PhD students **Connie Chau** and **Vaidehi Srinivas** and research associate **Yi Yang** attended the EECS Rising Stars Workshop 2025.

PhD student **Canyu Chen** earned a Best Paper Award and an Outstanding Paper Award at two AAAI 2026 workshops.

PhD Student **Tochukwu Eze** was named among 100 Most Impactful Education Personalities in Africa.

Undergraduate student **Abraham Flynn** won first place in the NSBE Fall Regional Conference Pitch Competition.

Shraeya Iyer, **Xi-Aan Loh**, and **Nalin (Fai) Pongpeth** received honorable mentions in the CRA 2026 Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award competition.

Computer engineering alums **Payal Mohapatra** (PhD '26) and **Stefany Cruz** (PhD '25) were selected for the fourth annual MLCommons Rising Stars cohort.

A CS + LS team including PhD students **Caryn Tran** and **Kristin Fasiang** and Professor **Eleanor O'Rourke** earned a Best Paper Award at ACM CHI 2026.

Alum **Yifan Wu** (PhD '25) received an Honorable Mention for the ACM SIGecom 2025 Doctoral Dissertation Award.

PhD student **Kexin Zhao** earned the Patrick Henry Winston Best Student Paper Award at the 2025 Conference on Advances in Cognitive Systems.