

What's happening?

Computer Science has revamped their Computer Science Major, Honours, and Data Science combined programs, and introduced three new courses:

- CSC 120 - Society, Ethics, Professionalism and Computing
- CSC 321 - Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (similar to the old CSC421)
- SENG 365 - Software Systems Development

In addition, third year for students in this new program (that is, students joining the Computer Science program starting in September 2026) will be allowed more choice with 300-level CSC/SENG courses. Instead of specific required courses (i.e. CSC 320, CSC 360 and CSC 370), students in this new program will be able to choose seven courses from the following nine: CSC305, CSC320, CSC321, CSC330, CSC360, CSC361, CSC370, SENG310 and SENG365.

My first term in Computer Science is this Fall. How does this affect me?

You'll be following the new curriculum, which is described in the September 2026 version of the [Undergraduate Calendar](#). Program Planning Worksheets and planning maps can be found on the UVic Computer Science [website](#). You should plan to take our new Ethics course, CSC 120, in the Spring term - this course is a prerequisite for Year 2's SENG 265 and the 300-level courses you will take later.

My first term in Computer Science was Summer 2026 or earlier. How does this affect me?

You will continue to follow your original program, as specified in your version of the Undergraduate Calendar. Past versions of the calendar can be found [here](#) and Program Planning Worksheets and planning maps for your program are available from your Computer Science Advisors. You do not need to transition to the new curriculum - you can continue on your old calendar version and graduate as planned.

I'm in the old program. Can I switch to the new one?

Students can opt to change their Calendar date to the most recent version, if they wish. In the vast majority of cases, this will not be advisable - at the very least, you'd need to take CSC 120 (not offered until this Spring), and then satisfy the requirements of the new program. For example, if you're hoping to avoid taking CSC 320 by switching to the new program, you should be aware that you will have to take all the other courses in the 9-course list aside from CSC 330, which will likely be equally difficult. If you're still interested, you should download and fill out a [new program planning worksheet](#) and determine how switching would affect your graduation timeline.

If I switch into the new program but change my mind later on, can I switch back to my previous one?

No. Once you change to the September 2026 curriculum, you will have to remain in it. If a unit makes changes to program requirements, a student can choose to be governed by the new regulations, but they cannot choose to be governed by earlier versions. Think carefully if you're considering making a change - there's no hurry to do so.

I'm on the old version of the program - what happens to my program options (Software Systems, Networking, Theory or Graphics & Gaming)?

You will be able to change your chosen program option until July 15th. After that date, you will be able to remain in your current program Option, or revert to the standard Computer Science Major or Honours program, following your current calendar version. After this date, you will not be able to switch from one program option to another, nor will you be able to add a program option if you don't currently have one.

I took CSC 421. How does that work with the new CSC 321?

You will retain credit in CSC 421, which you can use in place of CSC 321, or as a 400-level CSC elective, whichever you choose. CSC 321 is mutually exclusive with CSC 421, you shouldn't take both courses. CSC 321 itself is a 300-level CSC course - you cannot use it to satisfy a 400-level CSC requirement.

I'm in Data Science or one of the Combined Programs, and my program specifically requires CSC 421. What should I do?

If you entered one of the combined programs prior to September 2026, CSC 421 may be listed as a program requirement. If you are in one of the Computer Science Combined or Data Science programs and you see CSC 421 listed as a requirement on your CAPP, contact your program advisor, who will substitute CSC 321 for the CSC 421 requirement. This substitution is only available to students whose program specifies they must take CSC 421.

If I'm on the old version of the program, how do these prerequisite waivers work?

You will encounter Pre-requisite Errors when you try to register for SENG 265 and many 300-level courses, as those courses now require successful completion of either CSC 120 or ENGR 130. For the upcoming 2026/27 and 2027/28 academic years, you can request a prerequisite waiver for SENG 265 or any of the 300-level CSC and SENG courses that require the new prerequisite, by completing this form and returning it to cscugforms@uvic.ca. This will allow us to manually check your prerequisites for these courses, and override these errors. It's okay if you decide not to take a course for which you've been given a prerequisite and you can always submit another form if you decide you want the override for a course you didn't originally request. As always, you can contact your CSC Advisors for registration assistance.

I still have questions!

We'll be following up with additional information as we get closer to registration in June. If you have any questions about this new curriculum, please contact your Computer Science Advisors:

- Irene Statham, 4th-year students: cscadvisor@uvic.ca
- David Clark, 1st - 3rd year students: cscadvisor2@uvic.ca

Thank you for your time and have a great summer!