Computer Science/Data Science New Student FAQs

How can I prepare for my first computer science classes?
Many CS students start off with little to no prior knowledge of programming. However, to prepare for the first 2 programming classes, CS 111 (Program Design I) and CS 141 (Program Design II) you can do the following:
- CS 111: Can start working with Python by using the Spyder development environment
- CS 141: Start working with C++ by using development environment applications you can access. WindowsOS should consider Visual Studio Community Edition (not Visual Studio Code). MacOS should consider Xcode. And on Linux, g++ or any editor. Some useful websites could be, www.Stepbystep.com and or www.turingscraft.com/.

If you already have credit in CS 141, please review the UIC CS 141 course page here: https://sites.google.com/site/uiccs141/. Make sure you understand all concepts listed on the course website. Success in CS 141 is crucial for success in CS 211 and CS 251

Is there a specific kind of laptop I should be using?
The CS curriculum is adaptable to any OS. To work efficiently consider investing in a laptop with a 21" or bigger monitor. And in case of emergencies, the CS Department does offer a loner laptop program. Speak to your academic advisor for insight.

How do I know who my Academic Advisor is?
Every CS student has 2 sets of advisors, at the college level and the CS department level. The college level advisors help with admission inquiries, transfer credits, completing changes on your Degree Audit Report, Intents to Graduate, etc. The COE Advisor breakdown based on student's last name is listed below:
- COE Advisor, Elena Diaz (ddiaz2@uic.edu) – Last name: A – G
- COE Advior, Estherine Morgan (emorga3@uic.edu) – Last name: H – Patd
- COE Advisor, Letreurna Owens (lowens2@uic.edu) – Last name: Patel - Z

Your CS department advisors will assist you throughout your time at UIC. The CS Advisors advise on the CS Curriculum, sign academic petitions, remove registration holds, and many other tasks to assist students.
- Advisor, Alondra Avitia (aavitia2@uic.edu)
- Advisor, Joshua Taylor (joshualt@uic.edu)
- Advisor, Melissa Bryant (mbryan24@uic.edu)
- Advisor, Gina DeCoud (gdecoud@uic.edu)
- Advisor, Bryant Hill (bhill11@uic.edu)

*you can also visit the CS Advisor website at https://cs.uic.edu/undergraduate/cs-advising/