Why Computer Science?
Why UW CSE?

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Bill & Melinda Gates Chair
Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
University of Washington

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• Ranked among the top 10 programs in the nation (of >200)

• Two undergraduate programs
  – Computer Science (College of Arts & Sciences)
  – Computer Engineering (College of Engineering)

• Currently admitting ~490 Bachelors students each year
  – Up from 170/year just a few years ago
Top 10 First-Choice Majors of UW Confirmed Incoming Freshmen

- Computer Science & Engineering
- Business Administration
- Biology
- Mechanical Engineering
- Psychology
- Bioengineering
- Nursing
- Mathematics
- Biochemistry
- Aeronautics & Astronautics

Incoming freshmen have shown a growing interest in the fields of Computer Science & Engineering, Business Administration, and Biology. This trend is evident from the data spanning from 2010 to 2017.
• **Extraordinary students**
  
  – ~30% of the UW class medalists since 2000 have been CSE majors
    * Our “fair share” would be 2%
  
  – 3 of the past 6 Graduate School Medal recipients
    * “Academic expertise and social awareness”
A deep commitment to providing a top-tier education

- Winner of 5 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards
- Winner of the inaugural UW Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence
- Winner of two UW Distinguished Graduate Mentor Awards
- In a typical quarter, CSE has 2/3’s of the top-performing instructors in the 10-department UW College of Engineering, according to student course evaluations
• We produce students who can *design and build stuff*
  – Emphasis on teamwork and design
  – 80% of undergraduates do at least one internship
  – 25% of undergraduates participate in faculty-guided research
    • #1 school in the nation in students recognized in the past 10 years in the Computing Research Association “Outstanding Undergraduate Researchers Award” competition
  – A top-5 supplier of students to Amazon.com, Google, and Microsoft (along with MIT, Stanford, Berkeley, and Carnegie Mellon)
  – The predominate supplier to many leading smaller firms headquartered here
Why a research-intensive university?
What can we uniquely do?

- Get students into the lab
- Make them our partners in discovery
- Prepare them for life-long learning at the forefront of knowledge and society
  - *There is no field in which this is more important!*
Community: Undergraduate TAs
Community: Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing
Inaugural NCWIT Award for Excellence in Promoting Women in Undergraduate Computing
There are some OK reasons to go out-of-state for college

- Get away from your boyfriend
- Get away from your mom
- Get away from the rain

Getting a better Computer Science education is not one of them!
Preparing for CSE

• Not necessarily a high school computer science course!

• Deep comfort with algebra
• Scientific reasoning
• Reading comprehension

• Attention span
• Resilience when faced with challenges
Obvious questions

• Computer Science vs. Computer Engineering
• Direct-to-Major admission and Direct-to-College admission
• Related programs at UW