
Subject: Re: Computer Jobs

Posted by [SlikRik](#) on Sun, 04 May 2008 18:19:33 GMT

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If you really feel strongly about doing something with computers as a life goal, try this:

While in high school, do what you can to up your knowledge about many areas of computers, or if you've got a specific area in mind, concentrate on that. This includes either taking related high school classes if you can, or simply learning about it on your own time. This means you, taking the time to research your question and then finding an answer. If it's some language, consider buying a book from a bookstore. If it's hardware related, again, books are helpful, but so is a reliable website. Etc.

Once you get to the college stage, it sounds like an engineering path is for you. If you really want to stick solely with computers or the like, try one of the two following:

If you're more software orientated, Computer Science & Engineering would probably be a logical starting point. CSE majors tend to focus mainly on the software design and coding to operate various computer systems. If you're either a mix of software and hardware, or are really interested in hardware, Electrical & Computer Engineering would be a good choice (It's what I am currently studying). ECE majors tend to focus on the hardware aspects of the computer, and how to write the code in order to implement the hardware. Keep in mind that ECE majors don't always focus solely on computers. Any electrical circuit-based system is up for grabs in this major (from cd-players to computers, from little soundboard toys to home security systems, etc etc, possibilities are endless).

An example class that I just took was ECE 110 - Microcontrollers. We spent the class writing the code to program a microcontroller, aka a chip used to carry out various functions in circuit-based electronics, such as make lights light up, or display stuff on an LCD screen. Towards the end of the class, we actually had to wire up a circuit in order to get a motor to run in two directions.

But don't forget, start putting the effort in NOW. It will count when you get into college. If you take challenging classes in high school it's possible you could even skip some classes in college thereby graduating from college sooner. And since you will be used to putting lots of effort in, you'll be set for when the college workload really piles on. If you put the effort into college and get the good grades, you, yes you the person, will be in high demand by companies all over the world.

Engineers in general are in high demand, but the better you are at it, the better your chances are of getting hired with a fat starting salary. (Avg starting salary of an ECE graduate is about \$55000/yr)
