

Dear Parents of [Name],

Your son's score on the PSAT shows that he could excel in an Advanced Placement Computer Science A course. Why should he consider a course in computer science? Would he be interested in a high paying job? Would he like a job where he can create mobile applications, video games, cool special effects, or new devices? Computers are crucial to our way of life. They have changed the way we communicate, work, and play. An AP Computer Science A course can help him get started in an exciting and rewarding career in computing.

Many people have the misconception that there are no jobs in computing. The United States Department of Labor predicts computing jobs to be among the fastest growing through 2018. In fact, they expect there to be over 1.4 million jobs in the U. S. in this field by 2018, but only expect U. S. colleges and universities to graduate enough people to fill about half of those jobs. Even during these hard economic times companies are still hiring college graduates with computing degrees. Students who graduate with a computer science degree had either the highest starting salary or the 2nd highest of any 4 year degree.

Even if your son isn't thinking of a career in computing an Advanced Placement Computer Science A class can help him. Many fields will require him to take a computer science class in college, especially any science, engineering, or math fields. **At Georgia Tech,** **all students must pass a course in computer science**! Students who have prior programming experience do much better in these courses. And, starting with students graduating in 2012 AP Computer Science A counts as a science for high school graduation and as a science or math for entry into Georgia colleges and universities.

If your high school doesn't offer Advanced Placement Computer Science, contact the principal and ask her or him to consider adding the course through the Georgia Virtual High School. Or consider sending your son to a computing summer camp. See <http://coweb.cc.gatech.edu/ice-gt/1485> for more information on computing summer camps in Georgia.

Thank You,

Barbara Ericson

Director, Computing Outreach

College of Computing

Georgia Tech