9 facts to get students excited about earning tech degrees

Undergraduates who enroll in information technology or computer science degree programs have a real advantage in today's job market. Tell your students about these 9 reasons to study computer science, and watch them line up for your class.

1

The number of tech jobs are growing steadily

Technology-related jobs are among the fastest-growing and highest-paying across the country. But graduates with IT, CS or engineering degrees fill just 40% of the available positions each year.
Over the past 10 years, technology occupations have grown by 22.2% and are projected to continue growing at a similar rate through 2020.[1]

144,500 new jobs for people with computer-related degrees each year

57,000 new IT/CS bachelor's or master degree graduates each year

87,500 unfilled technology jobs each year.[1]

2

Technology workers change the world

Tech graduates are changing the world in ways no one even imagined a few years ago.[2] Here's what they're building: software applications, electronics, medical devices, robotics, drones, neuromorphic chips, 3D printers, smart solar and wind power, virtual reality, genome sequencing, vaccine research, climate modeling, environmental monitoring, animation technologies, sound engineering, nano-architecture, artificial intelligence, security encryption, and synthetic cells. And that's just the beginning.

3

Companies love to hire new technology graduates

Computer science and information technology is a young person's field and capable new graduates are always welcome. 61.8% of developers today are under the age of 30. The average developer was born the same year IBM manufactured the first megabit chip.[3]

4

Programmers love what they do

Computer science is a labor of love. And programmers don't just use their skills at the office. Each week, the average developer spends more than seven hours of personal time on side projects, open-source software and coding-related hobbies.[3]

36% of developers "love" their jobs.

40.4% more say they are "satisfied" with their jobs.

Only 2% "hate" their jobs.[3]

5

These graduates earn more

Technology–related jobs often have the highest entry-level salaries for bachelor degree holders. People with tech degrees enjoy a growing, profitable and meaningful career path. The average IT/CS employee in the U.S. earns $89,631.68 compared to just $51,939 for all workers.

Tech jobs	Growth	Median
IT managers	15.3%	$132,570
Softwear developer	22.8%	$96,260
Information security analyst	36.5%	$86,170
Computer systems analyst	24.5%	$81,190
Database administrator	15.1%	$80,740
Computer programmer	8.3%	$76,140
Web developer	20%	$67,540

6

It's a field that teaches a wide range of skills

Computer science student learn a vast range of skills, including problem solving, solution design, testing, creativity, perseverance, teamwork, design specification, sequencing, logic, reasoning, abstraction and computational thinking.[6]
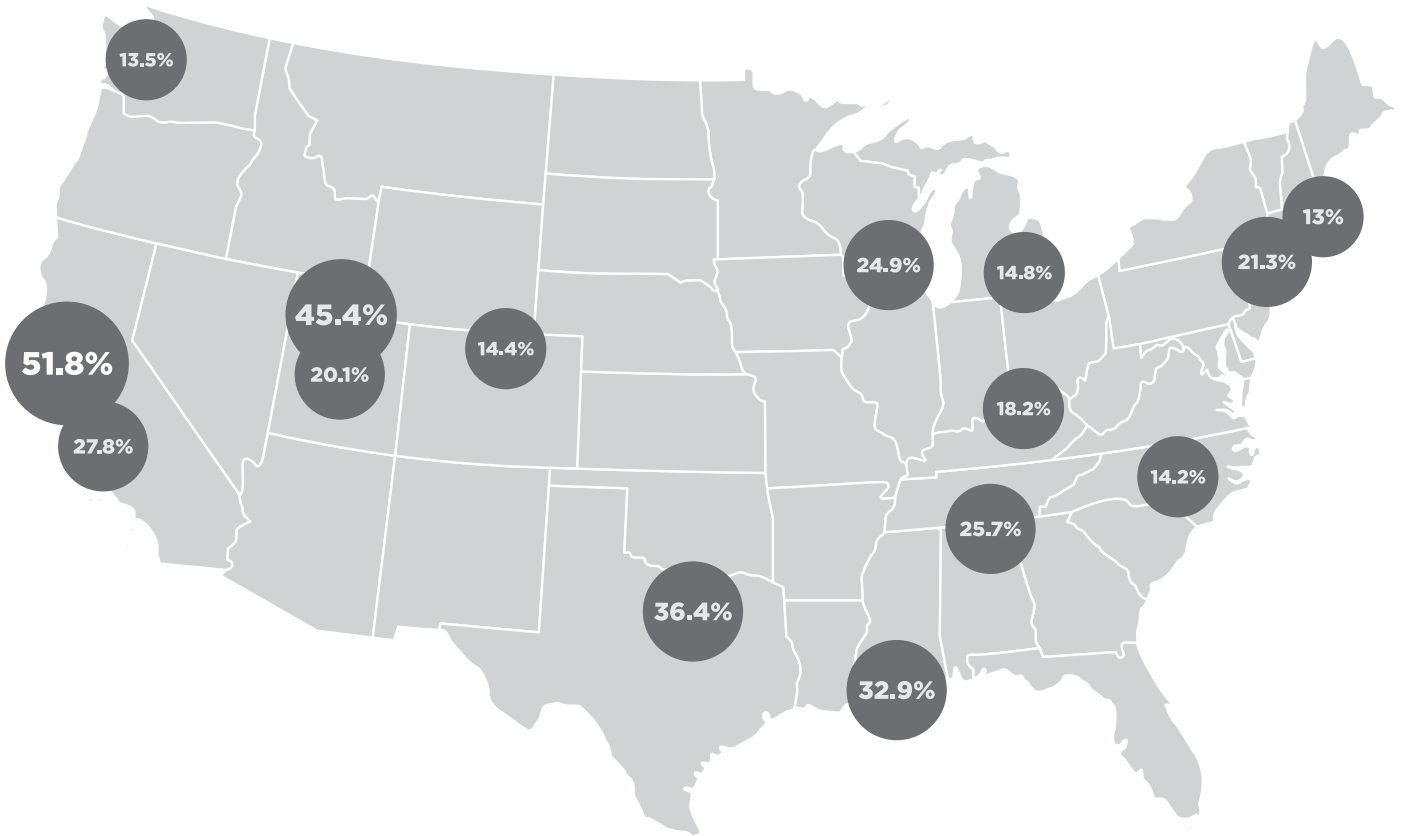
7

They can live and work anywhere

Thanks to wireless and remote-work technologies, tech employees can toil away from anywhere in the world—at the office, at home or at the beach. In fact, developers who work remotely (at least some of the time) earn roughly 40% more than those who work solely in an office[3].

Fastest growing IT/CS job markets in the U.S.[6]:

San Francisco, CA ... 51.8%	Huntsville, AL ... 25.7%	Ann Arbor, MI ... 14.8%
Salt Lake City, UT ... 45.4%	Madison, WI ... 24.9%	Fort Collins, CO ... 14.4%
Dallas, TX ... 36.4%	NYC/Brooklyn, NY ... 21.3%	Lexington, KY ... 14.2%
New Orleans, LA ... 32.9%	Provo, UT ... 18.2%	Seattle, WA ... 13.5%
Silicon Valley, CA ... 27.8%	Raleigh, NC ... 14.8%	Boston, MA ... 13%

More industries are hiring technology degree holders

As big data, automation and online technologies change how businesses operate, more industries need employees with technology degrees. While IT/CS workers are still concentrated in traditionally technical industries, demand is quickly growing in other businesses. These are the industries employing the most tech workers today:[3]

Keeping skills up-to-date is easy

It's important for students and recent graduates to keep current on new technologies and best practices, and the web is full of resources to help them do just that. Through online learning, new curriculum can be introduced quickly, in tandem with new technology. And developers should take advantage of online communities like Stack Overflow.

Tech jobs	Growth	Tech jobs	Growth
Software Products	18%	Health/Biotech/Science	7%
Web Services/Internet	14%	Education/Research	5%
Finance/Banking	8%	Telecommunications	2%
Consulting	7%	Government	4%
Media/Advertising/Entertainment/Gaming	7%	Other	27%

Your curriculum. Amplified.

Prepare your students for the jobs of tomorrow, today. With Pluralsight, they'll get:

- 4,000 IT, dev and creative courses + new training daily
- Access to top industry experts
- 24/7 on-demand viewing for learning anytime, anywhere

Ready to lead your students to greatness? Contact us:
schools@pluralsight.com
1.888.368.1240 | 1.801.784.9007

Sources:

[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Projections, 2012-2022. Reported by: The National Center for Women and Information Technology.
[2] Breakthrough Technologies, 2012-2015, Technology Review.
[3] 2015 Stackoverflow Developer Survey.
[4] Best Technology Jobs 2015, U..S News & World Report.
[5] U.S. Census Bureau, Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013, Sept 2014.
[6] Bureau of Labor Statistics reported by the Progressive Policy Institute.