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# CS PATHWAYS

JULY 1, 2019

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND**

CMSC Intro class @ UMD  
Interests and Experience

# CMSC131 Fall 2018 Survey

- Survey of students in all sections of CMSC131
- 933 responses
- Asked about
  - Experience in computing prior to introductory class
  - Level of commitment to CS major
  - Why interested in CS

# A random response ...

*If your choice is Computer Science or Computer Engineering, why did you choose this major? Mark all that apply.*

*Written in:* My amazing high school computer science teacher

# Who is taking 131? (*Answers sum to 100*)

- Class year

- 77% First year
- 14% Sophomore
- 8% Junior
- 1% Senior

- Gender

- 21.5% Women
- 68.4% Men
- 1% Prefer other category

- Major

- CMSC 77%
- ECE 14% (Computer Eng.)
- Math 4%
- Other 5%

- Required for major

- Required 93%
- As elective 7%

# Experience prior to 131

- Taken HS AP Java 38%
  - Taken HS other CS 24%
  - Taken CC programming 9%
- Taken any HS class 40%*
- Taken both HS+CC 8%*
- Taken either HS/CC 46%*
- Extracurricular experience 75% camps, online classes, clubs, etc.
  - *(Multiple answers allowed – doesn't sum to 100)*

# Why are they taking 131?

- Like the field/courses in major interesting 73%/49%
- Impact on society 50%
- Job market promising/make a lot of money 72%/57%
- Will be successful completing major 32%
- *(Multiple answers allowed – doesn't sum to 100)*

# Who influenced them to major in CS/ECE?

- Friends are majors in this field 11%
- Professors/faculty at my institution 10%
- My family influenced my decision 26%
- *(Multiple answers allowed – doesn't sum to 100)*

# Commitment

If you chosen a major, how committed are you to the major?

67%      Very committed

29%      Committed, but not sure

4%      Not committed at this time, seeing if I like it

- *(Sums to 100)*