

In today's world, where we increasingly rely on computers in almost every aspect of life, computer literacy, or digital fluency, is not just about being a computer user...we all need to become knowledgeable about how computer systems and software are developed. And, if you like computing, great careers are found in every industry. You can combine your interests in computing with nearly anything else. Get started learning early!

SCRATCH

<http://scratch.mit.edu/>

Download Scratch on your computer or have a parent help you. The software is free!



Ages: Scratch is perfect for ages 8-16.

With Scratch you can create your own digital stories, games, animations, and simulations. Use characters already created, or make your own...create a game, ask other Scratch creators for help, and post your project on the Scratch website for anyone to play! Learn about math and computation, how to think with logic and creativity, and collaborate with others who are also creating projects.

Next: Ages 14-18 Continue math classes in high school. If there are no computer science courses, you can use your knowledge from Scratch to learn other programming languages on your own. All of these programs are free.



python™

Python is great for building web applications
(<http://www.python.org/>)



Alice is a program for 3-D animations, among other things...
(<http://www.alice.org/>)

These are just a few examples of hundreds of programming tools and languages you can use...and once you learn a little bit about programming, you will find it easy to pick up new languages, for new purposes.



Greenfoot: Uses games and simulations to teach Java in a fun and enaging way
(<http://www.greenfoot.org/index.html>)

Java: Object-oriented, all purpose programming language that many colleges use in first courses
(<http://www.java.com>)



Age 18 and up: college degrees in computing

With some exposure to programming, like Scratch, Python, or Java, and a good background in math and science during high school, you will be ready for for a college degree in Computer Science or Software Engineering. A four year degree will prepare you for a fantastic career in project management and software development for any industry you are interested in, whether it is medicine, government, agriculture, auto and transportation, or software development. ISU graduates work for world-class, global companies, including:



Microsoft



CERNER
All Together™



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