

# APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

# COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES Computer Science

Reaching Higher

Professor Willow Sapphire

# Today's presentation

- What is Data Science?
- Requirements for the Data Science Certificate?
- Growth projection and salary for Data Scientists
- University Honors Program
- Department Honors Program
- The Good and Bad of Honors
- How about a minor?
- Questions

#### What is Data Science?

- Data scientists extract meaningful insights from data using
  - statistics
  - algorithms
  - programming skills
- Data scientists use data to answer questions like:
  - Will this person renew their subscription?
  - What kind of car is this person likely to buy?
  - Is this a picture of a cat or a dog?





## Requirements for Data Science Certificate

- Although the certificate is open to all majors, it is easier for CS majors to earn because of the significant overlap in requirements
- Requirements:
  - **CS 2435:** Introduction to Scientific Programming (Programming in Python)
    - CS 2440: Computer Science II can be a substitute
  - o Math 2240: Linear Algebra
    - Required for CS major
  - Stat 3850: Statistics
    - Required for CS major
  - CS 3435: Data Acquisition and Visualization
    - The one "extra" course, but it also contributes to the 120 hours needed to graduate
  - CS 4755: Applied Machine Learning
    - Counts as CS elective (12 hours of CS electives required for CS major)

# Growth Projection and Salary

- Because businesses are interested in obtaining data driven solutions, the demand for data scientists is growing significantly
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics:
  - Projected employment growth of 35% for data scientists between 2022-2032
    - Compared to 3% for all occupations
  - Median annual salary in May 2022 for data scientists was \$103,500

# University Honors Program

- To graduate with University Honors, a student must:
  - Earn a minimum of 24 hours of honors credit:
    - 9 hours of interdisciplinary Honors courses
    - 3 hours of honors courses within the major
    - 9 hours of honors courses within any area
    - 3 hours of honors thesis/project
  - Possess a minimum GPA of 3.45 (cumulative and in honors courses)
- First year students in the honors program live together in an Honors residential community
- Students with less than 45 semester hours can apply to join the University Honors program
- https://honors.appstate.edu/

## Department Honors Program

- To graduate with Honors in Computer Science, a student must:
  - Earn a minimum of 9 hours of honors credit:
    - 6 hours of honors courses in Computer Science
    - 3 hours of honors thesis/project
  - Possess a minimum GPA of 3.45 in the Computer Science major
- Graduate courses count as Honors courses
  - Take Graduate courses to graduate with honors and simultaneously work toward earning the Master's degree
- https://compsci.appstate.edu/academics/honors

#### The Good and Bad of Honors

- The bad yes, it's more work
- The good
  - Richer, more in-depth educational experience
  - Interested in becoming a faculty member in higher education?
    - PhD required by most institutions
    - Honors provides the opportunity to write a thesis
  - Interested in becoming a Researcher in academia or industry
    - Honors provides the opportunity to perform research under the guidance of a faculty member

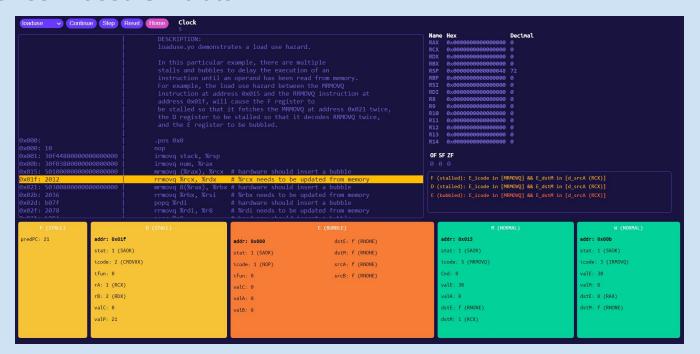
#### **Recent Honors Thesis**

Will O'Brien - A Framework for Neural Network Training on Honey Bee Image Data using Active Learning



#### **Recent Honors Thesis**

Jenny (Chau) Ly - LY86-64: Implementation and Evaluation of a Y86 Browser-Based Simulator



#### How about a math minor?

- Because of the overlap in CS and MAT requirements, CS majors can earn a minor in Mathematics with as little as one extra course
  - CS requires some math courses that can also count toward a math minor
    - MAT 1120: Calculus with Analytical Geometry II
    - MAT 2240: Introduction to Linear Algebra
  - MAT 4310: Numerical Methods counts as a CS elective and toward the math minor
    - MAT 2310: Computational Mathematics Prerequisites counts toward the math minor
      - This is the one "extra" course (but not really extra because it also counts toward the 120 hours to graduate)
- Other minors attractive to CS majors include
  - Cybersecurity
  - Physics
  - Business
  - Japanese

# Department Fast Facts

- Academic Programs
  - Bachelor's of Science, ABET accredited, 600 students, 110 graduates/yr
  - Master's of Science, 25 students, 10 graduates/yr
  - Data Science Certificate, 30 students
- Engaged Faculty
  - 19 funded grants, > \$5 million over last 7 years
  - o 20 faculty members
- Program began in mid 1970s, became department in 1998

#### Questions?

- Also don't forget to visit these rooms:
  - Beyond the Bachelor's in room 318
    - Earn a Master's degree with just one extra year of study!
  - Undergraduate Program in room 310
    - Learn why you should get your Bachelor's degree in CS here at App State
  - Student Success in room 327
    - Extra curricular activities help our students succeed!
    - Get the student perspective of our program!
  - Student Research Lab in room 312-W
    - See what research some of our students are working on!