PASS CS
Creating a Path to Achieving Success and Sense of Belonging in Computer Science
Who we are

Meet the PASS CS Team

- We are a group of professors and administrators
- Our goal is to support PELL eligible computer science students
- We want to help students reach their goals
- We hope to use the knowledge we gain to expand programming support to the computer science field as a whole
A Quick Overview of PASS CS

- Up to $15,000 scholarship
- A Two-Part Pre-Immersion Program
- Mentoring & academic support during the Fall semester
- Enhanced tutoring and near-peer mentoring
- Continued support through all 4 years at WPI
Am I Eligible?

Are you enrolled at WPI?

Are you a PELL eligible student?

Are you enrolled in the Computer Science program?
How Do I Apply?

- Eligible students receive an email from the Office of Financial Aid notifying them about PASS CS Scholarship program.
- Students complete a short application for the program.
- Application deadline May 20, 2024.
- Awardees notified the of May 28 - 31, 2024.
I have been notified I'm a PASS CS Scholar! YAY!

Now what?
Making a commitment

• Once accepted as a PASS CS scholar, you need to commit to the program no later than June 2, 2024.

• We are only accepting 10 students into the program and are looking for students who are excited about the opportunities of PASS CS.

• If we do not hear from you, your spot will be forfeited.
What are the financial benefits of this scholarship?

- Up to $15,000 in funding per year.
- To cover "unmet need"
- As long as, Scholars continue to meet the grant criteria...
  - Computer science major
  - Remain PELL Eligible
What other support will I receive by participating in the PASS CS scholarship program?
A Two-Part Extended Immersion Program with early arrival
Part I - PASS CS Cohort Mini-Bridge: Aug 7-10, 2024

- Introduction to the school and PASS CS Cohort
- Academic Preparation: Goal setting, mentoring and familiarity with the university
- Introductions to faculty, mentors, alumni and computer science professionals
- Active learning activities:
  - Brainstorming sessions
  - Small group discussions
  - Q&A Panels

Goals
- Developing Relationships
- Exploring and creating career profiles
- Unstructured open discussions
Part II – Connections Academic Immersion Experience Program: Aug 10 – 17, 2024

- A jump start and introduction to the WPI course structure, an opportunity to meet WPI faculty, and form relationships with peers
- Any WPI students are welcome to attend the connections program. The PASS CS Cohort is automatically enrolled.

- Goals:
  - To positively impact students' awareness and confidence in their own academic, social, and cultural preparedness for college.
  - To provide opportunities for students to experience and understand the expectations of college life and rigor of WPI academics.
  - To build a sense of belonging and confidence in each students' ability find their home within the WPI community.
Enhanced mentoring & academic support during the Fall semester

- Weekly meetings with supportive faculty
- Building social connections
- Demystifying the existing support structures
Enhanced tutoring and near peer mentoring with older CS Students

• Scholars will be assigned a near-peer mentor/tutor to help navigate the hidden curricula of the existing support structures (self-structure)

• Small peer-led group sessions for scholars to have a goals check-in session and reinforce progress towards their goals developed during the mini-bridge

• Scholars taking the same class will meet once a week to share the everyday actions leading to their success or gain insight into how to improve using near-peer mentors and faculty
What else can I expect?

- Scholars will be registered together for the same set of courses (where applicable)
- Check-in events each term with professional development topics
- Additional support for research experiences, conference travel, etc.
- Continued support from grant personnel through all 4 years at WPI
### Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 1, 2024</td>
<td>WPI Deposit Deadline</td>
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<td>May 6 – 10, 2024</td>
<td>Notification of Eligibility for PASS CS</td>
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<td>May 14, 2024</td>
<td>Virtual Q&amp;A Session for PASS CS</td>
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<td>May 20, 2024</td>
<td>PASS CS Application Deadline</td>
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<td>May 28 – 31, 2024</td>
<td>Award Notification</td>
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<td>June 2, 2024</td>
<td>Confirmation of Acceptance to PASS CS</td>
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<td>June 13, 2024</td>
<td>PASS CS Scholars participate in New Student Welcome Event</td>
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<td>August 7 – 10, 2024</td>
<td>PASS CS Mini Bridge Immersion Program</td>
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<td>August 10 – 17, 2024</td>
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<td>August 18 – 21, 2024</td>
<td>WPI New Student Orientation</td>
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<td>August 22, 2024</td>
<td>First Day of Classes</td>
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Virtual Q&A Session for PASS CS
May 14 at 5pm

Topic: Virtual Q&A PASS CS

Time: May 14, 2024 05:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: https://wpi.zoom.us/j/97749362411

Meeting ID: 977 4936 2411
PASS CS Leadership Team

Dr. Rodica Neamtu  
Professor of Teaching, CS  
TA Coordinator  
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Debra Boucher  
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Assistant Professor of Political Science  
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Kathy Chen  
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For additional questions please email: passcs@wpi.edu