Why Study HCI at NJIT?

The best of two universities! At NJIT, you master state-of-the-art computing concepts and skills. Rutgers-Newark provides a strong background in Psychology and Cognitive Sciences for designing interaction. Both universities offer advanced electives.

- Strong preparation for graduate school.
- Co-op and internship opportunities with major local companies in the region.
- NJIT’s SmartCampus infrastructure, which uses wireless technologies to enable community-building and social-networking across campus, provides numerous HCI project opportunities.
- Study part-time or full-time.

Learning Beyond the Classroom: IS Club

Information Systems club is open to all students with an interest in IS, IT, and their applications in business, healthcare, etc. The club’s purpose is to provide opportunities for students to network with their peers, industry practitioners and alumni, and to provide them with activities such as workshops, speaker events, discussion panels to prepare them better for a career in Information Systems.

What Alumni Say

“I’m in the HCI program because I’ve dreamed of creating virtual worlds. HCI is the field that is developing the techniques and methods for not only making it possible but making them believable.”

Don Hiles, BSHCI Alumnus

“HCI is the on the cutting edge of information systems. It captures my interest because it balances a technical as well as humanistic approach to information appliances, as well as to future looking developments in personalized computing.”

Kotaro Yamaguchi, BSHCI Alumnus

“The thought of designing user interfaces for computers and cell phones all around the world has really drawn me into HCI. Professor Egan included a field trip in his class to an HCI conference to see usability in real world applications. Professor Jones has been really involved by asking HCI students to participate in the SmartCampus social networking project.”

Steve Ricken, BSHCI Alumnus
What is HCI - Human-Computer Interaction?

How you use computing technology, such as Web pages, games and cell phones, can be designed really well or designed poorly. HCI professionals design this interaction.

HCI professionals work in companies and organizations developing the interfaces between systems and people. Creative and insightful, HCI professionals are forward thinkers who possess the technical skills to implement effective interfaces. They understand how people use technology, and truly care about making this interaction easy and productive.

“HCI is a great field because you are dealing with people. You get to explore what makes people tick. You talk to real users about real world issues, and learn how to design technology that is easy to use and has a positive impact on people's lives.”

- Elizabeth Whitworth, BSHCI Alumna

What distinguishes our BS HCI degree?

Few universities are able to offer a BS HCI. Originally designed by the Chair of the ACM’s Computer-Human Interaction group, NJIT’s is the perfect degree if you are excited about psychology, graphic design and computing.

Extensive Portfolio

You develop an extensive portfolio of designs and implementations beginning in your first year.

What jobs can I get?

HCI graduates are in high demand. NJIT’s Career Services Office receives notice of many more jobs (and co-op internships) than our students can fill.

In aviation, manufacturing, and the nuclear industry, HCI is recognized for its significant safety contributions. In the entertainment and advertising industries, interactive and social computing are so central that managers actively seek HCI practitioners.

HCI specialists act as liaisons among graphic designers, business managers, developers and end users. Every company that designs and implements interfaces for computing systems needs HCI specialists! Furthermore, several consulting companies evaluate interface effectiveness and improve designs.

What will I learn?

Graphic Design – Learn methods for effective and creative visual communication. You will focus on how users “navigate” and “read” visual information. Implement these skills to develop systems that facilitate the user’s experience (UX) when confronted with complex visual information.

Computing Sciences – Study information, web and communications technologies, so that you are skilled in implementing solid HCI solutions.

Psychology – Learn how people perceive the world, how they remember things, and how particular environments can help them think. This will help you to keep the user in mind when designing interfaces.

Information Systems – Learn about social computing (how people interact with each other online). Study how to design the way people interact with computing technology, and how they interact with each other through technology. Conduct user evaluation studies to analyze and improve how people interact with your designs. Finish with a Senior Capstone Project in a student team applying your HCI skills to a local company.

What will I learn?

HCI Related Job Salaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Director</td>
<td>$58,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Director</td>
<td>$82,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interaction Designer</td>
<td>$73,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Designer</td>
<td>$58,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Web Designer</td>
<td>$65,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Experience Designer</td>
<td>$73,805</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior User Experience Designer</td>
<td>$101,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Experience Director</td>
<td>$132,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Experience Manager</td>
<td>$110,114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Median salaries from www.payscale.com, October 2014 (use search keywords “User Experience Designer”)

BS HCI Specializations

- Game Design and Production
- Graphical Arts Design
- Cognitive Psychology
- Multimedia Design