University of Washington ACM-W

ACM-W, University of Washington
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Our Team

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Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/uwacmw/

Number of Computer Science & Engineering Undergraduates at UW: ~400
Number of ACM-W Members: 84 (All students are Computer Science & Engineering majors)

About Our University and Our Chapter

The Association for Computing Machinery for Women at the University of Washington (UW) is a group of students in the department (male and female) dedicated to cultivating a strong supportive community of women within the department of Computer Science & Engineering, to helping members succeed academically, socially and professionally, and to demonstrating the importance and necessity of diversity in the computing world. In our local chapter, we have about 24% women enrolled in CSE while UW is closer to 50% overall. We should all care about this because any time you have a discipline that leaves out a significant part of the population, you lose a valuable perspective. While many CSE faculty, staff and students are committed to increasing diversity, our department needs an organized group of students to participate in this effort. Involvement of CSE majors is crucial because students of all ages always want to see and hear firsthand what it means to become a computer scientist. Membership in ACM-W is open to all students—male and female—who support the goals of the organization. Our financial support comes from the CSE department and from corporate sponsorships.

Our Chapter Activities

- **Affiliates Fair Dinner.** We host two dinners every school year during the fall and winter recruiting season, immediately after the CSE career fair, that allow students to network with engineers and recruiters over dinner in a personal setting. Attendance: ~30 people.
- **Succeeding in Industry Panel.** This spring we hosted a panel to give students advice on how to navigate their first software engineering internship or full-time job. Topics included code review best practices, performance cycles, and diversity in the workplace. We invited five female software engineers from Airbnb, Microsoft, Google, and Qualtrics as panelists. Attendance: ~25 people.
- **Women's Research Day.** We partnered with graduate students to host an all-day research event on a Saturday, including a poster session, lightning talks, and lab tours. The speakers were female UW CSE faculty members and senior scientists at Microsoft Research, Google Research, and the AI2. The event was also drew high school seniors. Attendance: ~40 people.
- **Post-Grace Hopper Discussion.** Following the Grace Hopper Conference, we led a discussion on the role of women in computer science - both on our campus and in the field as a whole. As an open discussion, we addressed the value of attending Grace Hopper, facilitating the responsible growth of women in our department, and tips on how to make the most of the experience for future attendees. Attendance: ~60 people
- **Faculty Tea.** Every quarter, we hold a tea where we invite women faculty members to meet with students informally and discuss research, career questions, and general life advice. Attendance: ~15 people/quarter.
- **Grad Student Mentorship.** This year, we started pairing undergraduate women with graduate women mentors. The undergrads meet with their mentor on a weekly basis. At the end of the quarter, all of the mentor-mentee pairs meet to discuss their collective learnings. Attendance: ~20 people
- **Palantir Trivia Night.** In partnership with Palantir, we hosted a Trivia Night event as one of our social events. We invited all students to answer questions on Computer Science, programming, and pop culture. Attendance: ~50 people
- **Facebook Valentine's Day Treat.** For a special Valentine's day giveaway that coincided with our midterm season, we handed out cupcakes and Facebook swag. Attendance: ~25 people
- **Squarespace Breakfast.** We are hosting a breakfast in the coming week to allow students to network with Squarespace engineers and learn what it's like to work in NYC. Attendance: ~15 people have RSVP'd.
- **Goldstar Member Bubble Tea.** We invited our most active members to meet the current officers over bubble tea to discuss how to become involved in ACM-W and potentially run for office. Attendance: ~15 people.
- **Spring Canoeing.** In the spring, we invite any interested members to go canoeing on Lake Washington, through our activities center. This is a final event for the year, and the planning allows us to usher in the upcoming officers and work with them to get their feet wet in planning an event. Attendance: ~20 (last year, TBD upcoming)