

ACM Student Chapter

Outstanding Recruitment Program Award Application

Chapter Name: Vanderbilt University ACM-W Student Chapter
Chapter Address: 400 24th Ave S, Nashville, TN 37212
Chapter URL: <https://anchorlink.vanderbilt.edu/organization/WomenInComputing>

Faculty Sponsor:

Name: Maithilee Kunda
Email: mkunda@vanderbilt.edu

Officers:

Name: Miti Joshi
Email: miti.v.joshi@vanderbilt.edu
Name: Haley Adams
Email: haley.a.adams@vanderbilt.edu
Name: Kimberly Fievre
Email: kimberly.fievre@vanderbilt.edu
Name: Tessa Jensen
Email: tessa.m.jensen@vanderbilt.edu
Name: Jaya Kumari
Email: jaya.kumari@vanderbilt.edu

Chapter Description:

Vanderbilt University's ACM-W Student Chapter is an organization that seeks to promote inclusion in the field of computing at Vanderbilt University. Accordingly, VUACM-W encourages the participation of individuals of all levels of experience to foster growth at every level. Our organization provides guidance and support to underrepresented groups through mentorship so that they may better pursue opportunities in computing-related fields.

Through a mixture of independent programming and collaborative events with congruous organizations, we aim to make the computing community at Vanderbilt more inclusive. Our primary focus is to advocate for and foster community cohesion among undergraduates, graduates, and faculty through mentorship and networking. At present our chapter has grown to 168 members. Our undergraduate members consist of computer science majors, computer science minors, and programming enthusiasts.

Essay:

As the only ACM chapter on campus, VU ACM-W serves as the primary initiative to promote a sense of community for all computing enthusiasts. It is also the only computer science organization that strives to connect to underrepresented groups in the field. As the brainchild of a collaboration between undergraduates, graduates, and faculty members, the organization has access to a far-reaching audience within the computer science department. The student body's

desire for a safe and supportive environment in which to learn and make mistakes is tangible and has been demonstrated by the large turnout to VU ACM-W's discussion meetings.

To promote the organization and its activities our student leaders utilize social media, digital announcements, merchandise, and word of mouth to generate awareness. In line with our group's goal of community cohesion, we have decided to take a personal approach to welcoming new members to our organization, which encourages individuals regardless of gender, sex, or race. The distribution of laptop stickers with the club logo has been particularly successful. In order to maintain membership, VU ACM-W also entices members with various benefits and events. For example, members are granted free access to a well-maintained database of scholarships, fellowships, internships, and job opportunities. In addition, a weekly newsletter is sent out to members with a list of upcoming lectures, opportunities and social gatherings for engineers.

Vanderbilt University's ACM-W student chapter strives to create a positive atmosphere for Vanderbilt's community of programmers. We believe that our recruitment process exemplifies this ideal. From our inception we have managed to gain 168 members in our first year and we intend to maintain our trend of internal and external growth. With the establishment of this chapter, we have generated a medium for the creation of worthwhile events and support frameworks for the student body.