



## ACM Student Chapter Excellence Awards Application

Chapter Group ID: 46401  
Name of Chapter: State University of NY/Buffalo  
Chapter Address: University at Buffalo, 338 Davis Hall, Buffalo, NY 14260  
URL for your Chapter homepage: http://ubacm.org/  
Category you are applying for: Outstanding Chapter Activities

### Chapter Officers

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Please provide a brief description of your chapter and school including number of chapter members (1500 character maximum):

University at Buffalo (UB) is a public research university located in Buffalo, NY, under the State University of New York system. As of 2017, UB has 30,648 total attending students, with 21,020 as undergraduate students. UB houses 13 colleges, one of which is the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. The engineering college, founded in 1946, is a member of Association of American Universities (AAU), and has eight different academic departments that offer a variety of engineering programs for students from 30 different U.S. states and 65 countries around the world.

UB ACM was founded in 2004, and focuses on helping students find their path in computer science, either in academia or industry. Our chapter events range from technical events with varying complexity to social events to allow members to network and meet peers with similar interests. We currently have over 600 verified UB students registered on our Slack workspace, which serves as both our club's newsletter and a discussion medium. From Fall of 2017 to now, we had 187 unique students visit our in person events. All in all, we are an inclusive community of students passionate about computer science and software engineering that hopes to improve ourselves and others.

Number of students at your school who take computer science and related courses, and typical majors of your chapter members (1000 character maximum):

UB ACM's main demographic of majors are Computer Science and Computer Engineering. As of Fall 2017, University at Buffalo has 1133 students enrolled as Computer Science and Computer Engineering majors or minors..

The number of students who take computer science courses is much larger, as the introduction to computer science courses are popular across discipline. However that number is not publicly available from our school.

Source: <https://engineering.buffalo.edu/home/academics/undergrad/data.html>



An essay on the category for which your chapter would like to be considered (4000 character maximum - approximately 500 words):

UB ACM hosts numerous events each semester. These events vary in nature, and have included hackathons, hack nights, social events, tech talks, and workshops. While most of our events are run by club members, we have had some run by professors, industry professionals, and also in collaboration with other clubs. We constantly strive to continue improving our events to benefit our members, and have recently tried to facilitate scheduling conflicts by live-streaming some of them on our club's Facebook page.

Throughout the year, we host multiple workshops, tech talks, interview prep sessions, and social events. These have been great with helping students learn new skills beyond the classroom. Besides that, tech talks bring in both university professors and speakers from local and major tech companies to present interesting technologies or talk about their field of work, which expose members to the various fields within computer science and the opportunities they create.

Our workshops are informative introductory workshops run mostly by upperclassmen with expertise in the topics. We host workshops that cover a wide range of technologies used by professionals in industry or academia, as well as to support the development of our members as they strive to get internships, research experiences, and jobs. Some of the workshops we've covered from this year include Internship Panel, Resume Workshop, Interview Prep, Python, JavaScript, Kotlin, Bash, Linux, Android Development, Web Development, and Computer Security.

In addition to workshops, we bring university professors and industry speakers to our school to present interesting technologies. This year, we've hosted tech talks with professional speakers from local and major tech companies like "Scaling a Startup's Infrastructure" by Joe Peacock (ACV Auctions), "High Performance Computing with OpenMPI" by Jeff Squyres (Cisco), and "Behind the Most Successful Kickstarter Campaign in WNY" by David Brenner (Thimble).

We host social events for member to allow networking opportunities in a less formal and less technical setting. This is another way for students to connect with peers with similar interests. Social events we've ran this year include Barbecue Social, Bowling Night, and Fireside Chat.

Our weekly meeting attendance count vary from 10 people to 100 people, depending on the popularity of the event. Our weekly meetings are not mandatory, instead members pick and choose their favorite events to visit. Weekly meetings are funded by our school's Student Association. As a Student Association club, it allows our chapter to receive a small yearly budget to run our weekly events. In exchange, Student Association clubs fulfill requirements to maintain good standing with the Student Association. Our weekly meetings often do not cost any money to run, and we only occasionally purchase light refreshments for social events. As a result, our events are very cost-effective, but still drive a great amount of interest from members.