

# ARCHIVAL NOTICE & PRESENTATION FORMAT

## Historical Teaching & Professional Material Archive

### Archival Notice

This presentation is preserved **solely for historical and archival purposes**.

- The content reflects the **state of knowledge, tools, technologies, and industry practices** available at the time the lecture was originally delivered.
- Examples, recommendations, and technical references are **intentionally time-bound** and may no longer represent current best practices.
- This material is retained to document **teaching methodology, professional experience, and industry context** during the stated period.

### Presentation Format Explanation

This archived version intentionally displays **both slide content and speaker notes** to preserve full instructional context.

- **Slide Presentation Area (~80%)**  
Displays the original visual content used during the lecture.
- **Speaker Notes Area (~20%)**  
Displays the instructor's verbal explanations, teaching intent, and contextual clarifications in a smaller font.

Speaker notes are included **for documentation, academic review, and historical reference**, and were not intended to be visible to the original live audience.

### Intended Use of This Archive

This material is intended for:

- Academic and professional portfolio review
- Teaching and curriculum documentation
- Historical reference of IT education and industry practices
- Analysis of pedagogy and professional development over time

This material is **not intended** to serve as:

- Current technical guidance
- Up-to-date industry instruction
- A live presentation without revision or contextual update

### Author's Statement

This archive represents the author's **professional and teaching experience** during the period indicated and is preserved to reflect its **original context and intent**.

**Historical Course Material - Is BSCS Worth It? Insights from a UPHSL HS Alumni Experience | February 13, 2009, University of Perpetual Help System - Laguna**

# Is BSCS Worth It?

*Insights from a UPHSL HS Alumni Experience*

**Career talk for 2nd Year High School students**

February 13, 2009

**University of Perpetual Help System - Laguna**

**Abegail Torrendon** ([thenocturnaldevgypsy.com](http://thenocturnaldevgypsy.com))

**UPHSL HS Batch 2000 Alumni**

## Speaker's Notes

Good morning everyone. I was invited today to talk about Bachelor of Science in Computer Science / BSCS, a course I personally chosen and took.

This talk is not meant to convince or forcing everyone to take BSCS. Instead, it's about helping you understand what BSCS really is, what kind of students usually succeed in it, and whether it might be a good fit for you.

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## Why This Question Matters

- Choosing a course is a big / major decision
- It affects how you spend the next 6-8 years
- It affects your college life
  - Your daily life
  - Your stress level
- It affects your career direction / future work

### Speaker's Notes

At your age, many students choose a course because of:

- Friends
- Parents
- Popularity or "uso"

But the truth is, college is hard enough already.

Choosing a course that doesn't fit you makes it even harder.

You will live with this decision for years, so it's worth understanding it properly.

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## I'm Abby!



- UPHSL HS Batch 2000 Graduate
- BSCS Graduate, planning to continue MIT when time permits
- I.T. Industry:
  - Project Manager & Application Developer
  - GIS & Facility Monitoring Systems
  - PH & US Government Projects
- I.T. Academe:
  - Assistant Professor I
  - Programming I, II & III, Web Development, Multimedia, Database, Software Engineering and Thesis Adviser for CS & IT

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### Speaker's Notes

Introducing myself to the attendees:

- UPHSL HS Batch 2000 Graduate
- BS Computer Science graduate from STI College Southwoods, with plans to pursue an MIT
- Project Manager and Application Developer at Pacific Data Resource Asia, specializing in GIS and government facility monitoring systems
- IT Assistant Professor I at AMA University Makati, teaching programming, web development, multimedia, database systems, software engineering and Thesis Advise for CS and IT

# Is BSCS Worth It?

*Insights from a UPHSL HS Alumni Experience*

## What Is BSCS? What BSCS Is NOT?

- BSCS = Computer Science
- Focuses on:
  - Programming
  - Logic
  - Problem solving
  - Mathematics
- More theory + problem thinking
- Not just typing fast
- Not just playing games
- Not just fixing computers
- Not an "easy" IT/computer course

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### Speaker's Notes

Simple explanation of BSCS for non-technical students.

BSCS is not just about using computers. It's about understanding how computers think, how programs are built, and how problems are solved step by step using logic and math.

You learn how to break big problems into small steps that a computer can understand.

Many students enter BSCS thinking it's easy because they like computers. Liking computers does not automatically mean BSCS is for you.

But liking computers and studying Computer Science are very different things.

Computer Science requires thinking, patience, and problem-solving.

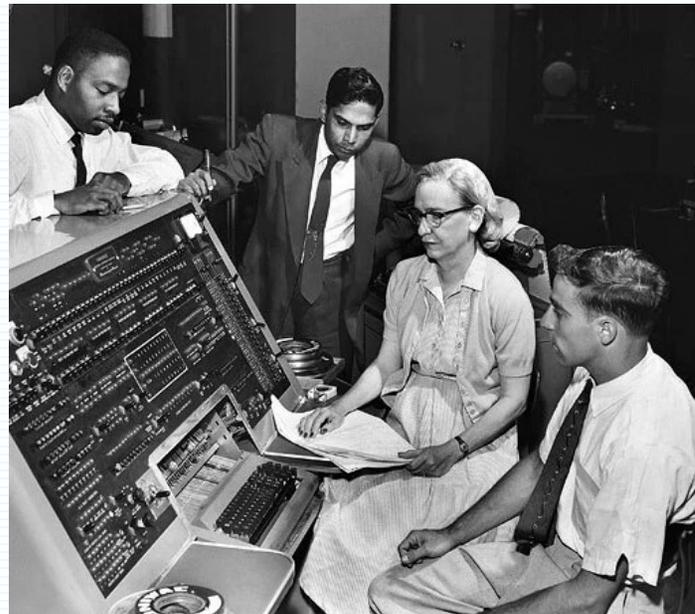
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## Expect a LOT of Programming

- You will write many programs
- You will fix errors (debugging)
- You will get frustrated (trial and error)
- You will also feel proud when it works (learn from mistakes)



### Speaker's Notes

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## Expect a LOT of Math

- Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Calculus
- Physics
- Logic
- Discrete Mathematics
- Algorithms
- Automata

**Yes, BSCS has math...**



### Speaker's Notes

Math is a core part of CS.

Yes, BSCS has math, and not just basic math. If you dislike thinking in steps, formulas, and logic, BSCS will be challenging. But if you enjoy solving puzzles or logical problems, you might actually enjoy it and can actually be fun.

If you hate thinking in steps, it can be challenging.

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## Is BSCS Hard?

- Yes, it can be hard
- But it is learnable
- Effort matters more than talent
- Practice is everything



### Speaker's Notes

Hard but achievable with effort.

You don't need to be a genius to survive BSCS. You need effort, discipline, practice, and the willingness to keep learning even when things are confusing.

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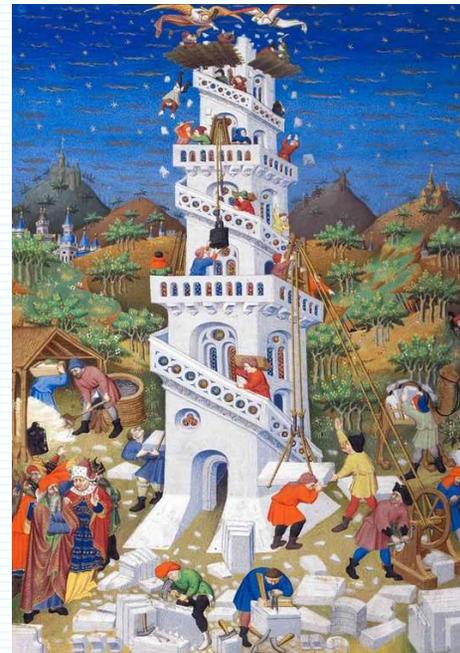
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# Is BSCS Worth It?

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## School Matters... But Not Everything

- Your school gives you foundation
- Your effort builds your skills
- Technology changes fast
- Learning does NOT stop after graduation



### Speaker's Notes

School helps, but self-learning matters more.

Your school helps, but it won't carry you forever. In technology, what you know today might be outdated in a few years.

You must keep studying on your own.

No matter where you study, technology keeps changing.

Graduation is not the end of learning in IT; it's only the beginning.

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## Learning Never Stops in IT

- New programming languages
- New tools and technologies
- Self-study is required
- Curiosity is important



### Speaker's Notes

Learning continues beyond graduation.

In IT and Computer Science, graduation is not the end. It's only the beginning of continuous learning.

In Computer Science, if you stop learning, you fall behind.

Curiosity is one of the most important traits.

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## My Personal Experience

- BSCS graduate with real-world projects
  - Won national web development competitions (2x)
  - Invited as a Speaker (inside & outside school)
  - Worked as a Developer while studying (student assistant)
    - On-the-job training abroad
- Worked on GIS & government systems
  - Represented company internationally
- Also working as an IT Instructor & Thesis Adviser

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### Speaker's Notes

My Personal Experience

- I took BSCS
- I struggled at times
- I learned a lot
- It opened many opportunities

I'm not saying BSCS is easy.

I want to share my experience not to brag, but to show what is possible if you take this path seriously."

I won nationwide web development competitions, worked while studying, and gained real-world experience early.

I worked on GIS applications and government systems, and in 2008 I was sent to the Netherlands to represent my company as the lead GIS demo developer at Oracle OpenWorld 2008 and Oracle Dutch Preview 2008.

Later, I became an IT instructor at the same time, teaching CS, IT, and Engineering students, and guiding thesis projects.

None of this happened overnight: it came from continuous learning, the skills I gained helped me work as a developer, project manager, and IT instructor.

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## Breaking it down...

- Competitions & Early Recognition
- Working While Studying (Student Assistant) & On-the-Job Training Abroad
- Teaching & Public Speaking Opportunities
- Real Projects: GIS & Government Systems
- International Exposure
- Also becoming an IT Instructor side by side

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### Speaker's Notes

So, if we're going to breakdown my Personal Experience:

- Competitions & Early Recognition
- While studying BSCS, I joined web development competitions & was fortunate enough to win twice in nationwide competitions.
  - It happened because I kept practicing, experimenting, and learning beyond class requirements.
  - Key message to students: Skills are built outside the classroom. Competitions expose gaps and strengths

- Working While Studying (Student Assistant) & On-the-Job Training Abroad
- I was also fortunate to work as a student assistant while studying.
  - That experience expanded my skill set beyond theory: I learned how real systems work, how teams operate, and how deadlines matter."
  - Important framing: "Lucky" + "worked for it", Not privilege, but opportunity + effort
  - I also had the chance to do on-the-job training abroad, which opened my eyes to how technology is used outside PH.
  - Different work culture. Higher expectations, Global standards

- Teaching & Public Speaking Opportunities
- Because of the work I was doing, I was invited to give lecture series: not only in my school, but also outside.
  - Teaching forced me to understand topics deeply and communicate clearly.
  - This subtly shows: Leadership, Communication skills, Trust from institutions

- Real Projects: GIS & Government Systems
- Later on, I worked on GIS applications and government-related projects.
  - These are serious systems, not school projects; used by organizations and decision-makers.
  - This grounds BSCS in real impact, not just homework.

- International Exposure
- I was sent to the Netherlands to represent the company I worked for.
  - I served as the lead GIS demo developer at: Oracle OpenWorld 2008 and Oracle Dutch Preview 2008
  - This happened because of skills, Not because of connections or fame

- Becoming an IT Instructor
- Eventually, I became an IT instructor side by side, teaching: BSCS, BSIT BSCOE students.
  - I also guided and reviewed thesis projects.
  - This closes the loop: From student → professional → mentor

- The Core Lesson (Tie Back to the Talk)
- Everything I mentioned didn't happen overnight.
  - It happened because: I chose a course that fit me, I kept learning beyond graduation, I practiced, failed, improved, and tried again

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# Filipino BSCS Graduates & Students You May Have Heard Of

- Winston Damarillo (UP BSCS graduate)
  - He co-founded Gluecode, which was later acquired by IBM.
- Onel de Guzman (AMACC BSCS undergraduate)
  - Creator of ILOVEYOU / Love Bug

## But!

- Filipino developers in global tech companies (behind outsourcing & startup growth)
- Many successful professionals working quietly

### Speaker's Notes

One Filipino you can safely look up is Winston Damarillo, a Computer Science graduate from UP, a software engineer, techpreneur and venture capitalist. He co-founded Gluecode, which was later acquired by IBM.

Another is a Filipino who created the infamous "I Love You" virus (also known as Love Bug) was Onel de Guzman. who released it in May 2000, causing widespread global damage by overwriting files and sending itself via email to contacts.

Many BSCS graduates are not famous on TV or celebrities, they work behind the scenes, building systems used worldwide.

Need to put into mind that it can impact global technology, not just local companies.

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# Why You Don't Hear About Many BSCS Graduates

- They work behind the scenes
- They build systems, not fame
- They work in banks, telecom, government, overseas firms

They may not be celebrities, but they're **well-paid, respected, and in demand.**

### Speaker's Notes

Here's something very important to understand: Many BSCS graduates are not 'famous', because their work happens behind the scenes.

- They build systems
- They write software
- They work in: Banks, Telecom companies, Hospitals, Game studios & Overseas tech firms

Success in tech is often quiet.

But it is stable, respected, and in demand.

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## Reality of BSCS Careers

- Many BSCS graduates work for foreign companies
- Outsourcing is growing, many are part of outsourcing teams
- Overseas demand exists, some eventually move abroad
- Some start their own tech businesses
- Skills matter more than titles

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### Speaker's Notes

Many Filipino developers already work with foreign companies or abroad. Skills open doors.

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## Who Should Consider BSCS

- You like problem solving
- You are patient and persistent
- You are willing to practice
- Curious about how things work
- You don't give up easily

### Speaker's Notes

Traits of students who fit BSCS.

BSCS fits a certain type of learner and is not for everyone; that's okay.

What matters is choosing a course that fits who you are.

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## Who Might Want to Think Twice

- You hate math completely
- You don't like logical thinking
- You want instant results
- You dislike sitting and thinking for long periods

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This is not meant to scare you; this is honesty, not discouragement.

Knowing this early helps you make better decisions. Choosing the right course saves years of frustration.

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## Ask anything! I'd like to hear from you!

You can ask about:

- College life
- Subjects
- Careers
- My personal experience

## There are no wrong questions!

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Questions &  
Discussion, Open  
Q&A

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Is BSCS Worth It?

**Yes, if it fits YOU.**

BSCS is **worth it for the right person.**

**Don't** choose a course **because it sounds cool.**

**Choose** it because **you are willing to work hard and grow in it.**

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BSCS is worth it, not because it is easy, not because it makes you famous; but because it gives you skills that can take you anywhere, if you are willing to work for them.