Welcome to the Thomas Lord Department of Computer Science

Almost 50 years since its inception in 1976, the USC Viterbi School of Engineering’s computer science department marks a new era with a new name: the Thomas Lord Department of Computer Science.
A New Era, A New Name

The naming gift, made possible by the generosity of the Lord Foundation of California, is part of the Frontiers of Computing, the largest and most comprehensive academic initiative in the university’s history.

The gift also supports a new chair, the Donald M. Alstadt Chair of Advanced Computing, awarded to Gaurav Sukhatme, a professor of computer science and electrical and computer engineering, and USC Viterbi executive vice dean.

Today, with more than 1,800 undergraduate students, 3,600 master’s students, and 400 doctoral students, the Thomas Lord Department of Computer Science is one of the largest and fastest growing on campus. Since 2022, 21 new faculty members have been recruited, including 10 new tenure-track hires in 2023.

The department will be housed in a new centralized hub for computer science at USC, the Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg Human-Centered Computation Hall, expected to open in spring 2024.