



## Frequently Asked Questions-General

### 1. What is the Center for Science and Industry?

The Center is a ½ day program which provides a rigorous academic experience for students who have an interest in engineering, mechatronics/robotics, or multimedia production. Collaboration, creativity, and “figuring it out” are all pillars of this program which provides unique preparation for college and career. Each year students take English, math, and an elective.

### 2. What programs are offered?

Course work begins with a two-year preparation for ninth and tenth graders, who will attend the Center for a portion of the school day. Regardless of their specific course of study, all ninth graders will take a 40 week elective in creative and technical design called CSI Design Principles. They will also take CSI English 9, and CSI Geometry, unless they are two years advanced in mathematics, at which point they would take AP Computer Science or Accelerated Algebra II (if cohort exists) instead. Tenth graders will choose one of the three disciplines and take an elective course to prepare them for entry into study for Engineering Technology, Mechatronics or Multi-Media Technology. All tenth graders will also take English 10 and the next math class in their sequence. In eleventh grade, students will again take math and English plus their elective course: Multimedia I, Mechatronics I, or Engineering Technology I. In their senior year, students will take English, may choose to take math (AP Calculus A/B or Pre-Calculus) and their elective course, Multimedia I, Mechatronics II, or Engineering Technology II. Multimedia I and Mechatronics I both offer a two-hour block which fulfills the “senior math related experience” if the students opts to not take a math class.

### 3. What is Mechatronics?

Mechatronics blends the applications of mechanical, electronics and software engineering, resulting in improved automated systems. In the professional world, Mechatronics is used in the fields of industrial robotics, engineering, and a variety of other occupations.

### 4. Other than specific course work, what are the advantages for my student to attend the Center?

Our program is highly collaborative and creative, and graduates report that the skills they’ve learned at CSI, including how to work successfully on a team and apply what they’ve learned to real-world situations, is a tremendous benefit to their college studies. Additionally, students will have access to work-based learning opportunities at all levels, including guest speakers, off-site industry tours, job shadowing, mentoring and possible internships.

### 5. Since this is a half-day program, will transportation be provided?

Yes. Morning students take the neighborhood *high school bus* to their home high school, where they will take a shuttle bus to the Instructional Resource Center. At the end of their CSI classes, they are transported back to their UCS home school.

### 6. What about lunch?

All 9<sup>th</sup> graders have a lunch scheduled when they get back to their home school. Upperclassmen are able to eat when they arrive here prior to the start of classes. We currently have bagel sales on Tuesdays and pizza on Fridays.

### 7. What is the application process?

Students can only apply and be accepted in eighth grade, as students begin CSI as ninth graders. Specific application information for current eighth grade students interested in applying for the upcoming school year will be available on the UCS website <https://www.uticak12.org/ucsi> beginning in January of the current school year. During application, students select one of two testing dates (in February or March, at our building). Students take an aptitude test in reading, mathematics, and will write an essay. Scores from these tests, as well as information from the application, are entered into a rubric to determine qualified applicants who are then entered into a lottery.



**8. What if there are more applications than the 90 available seats?**

Qualified students are placed in a lottery and assigned randomly drawn numbers. Invitations are sent to students with numbers 1-90 and waitlist letters are sent to qualified students with numbers above 90 (unqualified students are notified as well). If any student declines his/her invitation, the next student on the waitlist is invited. This process continues until we have a full class of 90 students.

**9. If my student enrolls in the Center for Science and Industry and later wants to return to the regular school district program, will that be allowed?**

As a student of the Utica Community Schools, your student will be welcomed back into the regular school program, with increased knowledge and possessing a background of academic rigor and technological achievement. We do ask that you make the decision to join our program carefully, as each year we have a wait list of students.

**10. How is CSI different from the home high schools?**

The CSI elective classes of Design Principles, Mechatronics, Engineering Technology, and Multimedia Production are unique to our program. Additionally, the English and math classes follow the same pacing guides as all Utica English and math classes and have the same end of course assessments. Standards from the classes are also included in the cross-curricular projects completed each semester. Much of what we do not only applies to the world of college and career, but it also is founded in the brain/mind learning principles, creating an active and engaging learning environment; we refer to this piece of our culture as a “relaxed alert” state, which means that students learn in a climate of “high challenge, low threat.” CSI also incorporates open-ended projects with “real world” applications and authentic audiences. These projects and trade-show presentations allow the students to apply and expand their knowledge while refining communication and teamwork skills and building confidence.

**11. What are the hours that students attend CSI?**

9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders attend CSI from 7:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders attend CSI from 11:05 a.m.-1:40 p.m.

**12. Can my 8<sup>th</sup> grader shadow a current CSI student?**

Yes, we do offer ½ day shadowing experiences. Please visit [ucsi.urticak12.org](http://ucsi.urticak12.org), mouse over “How Do I?” select “Shadow a Student” and click on the “Shadow Request Form” to provide information needed to schedule a shadow. Shadowing is not required and has no impact on qualification status, but is encouraged for kids who need to better understand the program before making a decision. Shadowing can be done from December until about the third week of March.

**13. What if I have questions about the CSI program?**

If you have further questions, please contact Administrator Peter Paulon at [Peter.Paulon@uticak12.org](mailto:Peter.Paulon@uticak12.org)