

Master of Computer Science (MCS) Requirements

Admission Requirements: While there is some flexibility in our requirements, we generally require:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university
- A 3.0 GPA for the last 60 semester credits
- TOEFL score of 79 or IELTS overall score of 6.0 and a minimum score of 5 on each subscale (international students)
- A course in Data Structures and Algorithms (CS 2420)
- These are in addition to the School of Graduate Studies' (SGS's) requirements that can be found at: <http://rgs.usu.edu/graduateschool/admissions>

Supervisory Committee Approval Form (SCAF): MCS students should not complete a SCAF form—their committee will be comprised of the Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC).

Program of Study (POS): The POS is a contract among the student, committee members, and the School of Graduate Studies outlining which courses the student will take to meet the SGS's requirements and complete their degree program. Students joining the department in a Summer or Fall semester will need to submit a POS by April 1st of their second semester. Students joining the department in a Spring semester will need to submit a POS by November 1st of their second semester. In order to be approved, the POS must follow the Master of Computer Science (MCS) degree requirements listed on the USU Catalog.

The current catalog listing for the Master of Computer Science in the 2021-2022 academic year is as follows:

All Master of Computer Science (MCS) students must meet the following general requirements:

- Complete 21 credits of courses numbered 6000-level and above.
- No more than 3 total credits of CS 5950, CS 6950, and CS 7950 may be used to satisfy the MCS degree requirements.
- CS 6250 can be taken only with the advisor's prior permission and a maximum of 3 credits will be allowed on the POS.
- A maximum of 12 credits of committee-approved coursework at the 5000-level may be used for the MCS degree. No credits below 5000-level will be allowed on the POS.
- CS 6970, CS 7970, CS 6990 and CS 7990 cannot be included on the POS.
- A maximum of 6 credits are allowed from outside the Computer Science Department. Any outside credits must be from ECE, MATH, STAT, or one of two approved courses: PSC 6150 and SOC 6150.
- No independent study courses outside the department are allowed on the POS.
- CS 6900 cannot be included on the POS for MCS students.
- Students must complete at least 33 credits of graduate coursework. The overall GPA must be at least 3.0 for degree-program courses, and grades of C+ or lower will not be accepted.

Requirements may change from time to time, so students are advised to check with the department or their advisor to determine whether the requirements at the time of graduation or in the first semester of registration as a graduate student will have an effect.

Individual Development Plan (IDP) & Annual Reviews: Once per year, students should complete an IDP. This is a College of Science requirement. Information on IDPs can be found at <https://www.usu.edu/science/pages/students/graduate-individual-development-plan>.

Graduation Paperwork: Students are eligible to graduate when they have completed all coursework on an approved POS. MCS students must email the Computer Science GPC at the beginning of the semester they plan to graduate. If they have informed the GPC of their intention to graduate by November 1st in Fall semesters, April 1st in Spring semesters, or July 1st in Summer semesters, then they will be emailed the link for graduation paperwork. Students must submit an application for graduation and pay the application fee before their degree can be awarded.