

UTSA Computer Science MS Degree Program

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Outline

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General Information

◆ Program Administration

▲ Graduate Studies Committee

- Deal with issues of admissions and petitions for both Ph.D. and Master programs

▲ Graduate Advisor of Record

- General administration (mostly paperwork)

▲ Department staff

- Secretary for graduate programs

▲ Graduate Faculty

- Developing guidelines and curriculum
<http://www.cs.utsa.edu/graduate/ms.shtml>
 - Teaching, supervising
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General Information

◆ Number of Students

	Fall 2002	Spr 2003	Sum 2003	Fall 2003	Spr 2004	Sum 2004	Fall 2004	Spr 2005	Sum 2005	Fall 2005
Admitted	56	27	4	64	22	7	28	19	5	40
Enrolled	64	66	8	69	51	22	54	57	18	59
Graduate	15			22			17			

Academic Advisors

- ◆ One is assigned for each MS student
 - ▲ the name is listed on the admission letter
 - ◆ A faculty who advises about academic issues, such as taking courses, degree options, comp. exam, etc.
 - ◆ Can be changed at anytime
 - ▲ with a Change of Advisor form
 - ▲ requires signatures of current and new advisors.
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Admission Conditions

- ◆ Typical admission conditions are
 - ▲ Taking some undergraduate courses
 - ▲ Admission in probation status
 - ◆ Must be satisfied in a year since admission
 - ◆ Course conditions can be removed if
 - ▲ they are completed with a grade B or better
 - ▲ an equivalent courses were taken at another institute
 - ▲ course condition is not satisfied by passing a graduate course of the same subject
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Admission Conditions

- ◆ To remove the admission condition, submit a petition using the Student Petition form
 - ▲ Include supporting documents, such as
 - Course descriptions
 - Syllabus of the courses
 - ...
 - ▲ The petition must be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee
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Transfer Credits

- ◆ The regulation:
 - ▲ Must be graduate credits earned in other institutes
 - ▲ Has not been counted towards another Master degree
 - ▲ Up to 6 credit hours, depending on courses
 - ◆ Submit a Student Petition form
 - ▲ With supporting documents (course descriptions, syllabus, etc.)
 - ◆ Graduate Studies Committee will make decisions case-by-case
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MS Degree Requirements

- ◆ In general, 36 credit hours
 - ◆ Specifics depending on Options
 1. Thesis Option
 2. Non-thesis Option
 - I. Project
 - II. Course
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Thesis Option

◆ Requirements

- ▲ 12 hours of required courses
 - CS 5363, 5513, 5523, 5633
 - ▲ 18 hours of elective courses which may include up to 6 hours of CS 6953 Independent Study
 - ▲ 6 hours of CS 6983 Master Thesis
 - The actual number of hours required by the thesis may be more than 6, but only 6 hours will be counted towards the degree
 - Thesis research is supervised individually by faculty
 - ▲ Pass a Comprehensive Exam (Thesis defense)
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Project Option

◆ Requirements

- ▲ 12 hours of required courses
 - ▲ 18 hours of elective courses not Including CS 6953 Independent Study
 - ▲ 6 hours of CS 5971-6 Directed Research or CS6953 Independent Study
 - The actual hours required may be more than 6, but only 6 hours will be counted towards the degree
 - Directed Research is supervised individually by faculty
 - ▲ Pass a Comprehensive Exam (project presentation)
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Time Required by Research

- ◆ Thesis/project options typically take two or more years
 - ◆ Students should look for research topics and supervisors early in the program (hopefully in the second semester)
 - ◆ Must realize that research always takes longer than one may expect
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Course Option

◆ Requirements

- ▶ 12 hours of required courses
 - ▶ 24 hours of elective courses
 - CS 6953 Independent Study is not recommended for this option
 - ▶ Pass a Comprehensive exam (research paper presentation, more on this topic later)
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Concentrations

- ◆ MS program has two concentrations:
 - ▲ Security Concentration
 - ▲ Software Engineering Concentration
 - ◆ Each concentration has some required courses
 - ▲ These courses cannot be substituted by CS 6953 Independent Study
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Non-CS Courses

- ◆ A maximum 6 credit hours of non-CS courses may be counted towards the Masters degree
 - ▲ In the past, not many requests were approved
 - ◆ To get a course counted, a student must
 - ▲ petition with supporting documents describing the course such as instructor, syllabus, textbooks, assignment, exams, etc.
 - ▲ Get a supporting letter from a faculty advisor
 - ◆ Grad Studies Committee makes a decision case-by-case
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Non-lectured Courses

- ◆ These include Independent Study, Directed Research, & Thesis courses
 - ◆ Suggestions:
 - ▲ take no more than 3 hours per semester
 - ▲ discuss with the instructor if you want more than 3 hours in a semester
 - ◆ An incomplete (IN) grade of these courses may cause some visa problems for an International student
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Comprehensive Exam

- ◆ Required for every MS student
 - ◆ The procedure:
 - ▲ choose a topic (typically 3 research papers)
 - ▲ submit a form to create an exam committee consisting of 3 graduate faculty members (at least 2 from CS)
 - ▲ reserve a room (usually for 1.5 hour)
 - ▲ provide exam committee members with reading materials (papers, copy of slides, etc.)
 - ▲ take the exam by giving a presentation and answering questions from the committee
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Academic Status

- ◆ Good Standing
 - ▲ with no pending condition
 - ▲ maintain 3.0+ overall GPA and 3.0+ semester GPA
 - ◆ Academic Probation
 - ▲ overall GPA ≥ 3.0 but semester GPA < 3.0 , or
 - ▲ a D in a course
 - ◆ Academic Dismissal
 - ▲ overall GPA < 3.0 ,
 - ▲ an F in a course, or
 - ▲ Academic Probation in two consecutive semesters
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Reinstatement

- ◆ If dismissed, the student may apply to the Graduate School for reinstatement
 - ▲ But must wait after a regular semester (sooner if approved by GSC)
 - ◆ Reinstatement needs the approval of GSC, dept chair, associate dean, & graduate dean
 - ◆ A request for reinstatement may be denied
 - ▲ If so, an international student may have to leave the country
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Financial Aid

- ◆ Teaching Assistants
 - ▲ Assigned by Department Chair
 - ▲ Recommended by faculty
 - ◆ Research Assistants
 - ▲ Supported by individual faculty members
 - ◆ Scholarships
 - ▲ Available from time to time
 - ▲ Sign on scholarship@cs.utsa.edu
 - ▲ May need to take 9 hours of graduate courses or perform research tasks
 - ◆ Small grants
 - ▲ May be available from various sources
 - The university, Graduate School, NSF, etc.
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Ph. D. Program in CS

- ◆ Research-oriented, leading to the highest degree, different career paths
 - ◆ Can apply with or without a MS degree in CS
 - ▲ deadline: Feb. 1 for Fall enrollment
 - ◆ If interested, discuss it with faculty or with Graduate Advisor of Record
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Further Questions

- ◆ Direct your questions to
 - ▲ Department staff
 - ▲ Graduate Advisor of Record
 - ▲ Academic Advisor
 - ▲ the Graduate School
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