Master of Computer Science

Program Overview

The Master of Computer Science (MCS) distance education program is designed for students with an undergraduate degree or sufficient undergraduate course work in computer science who wish to pursue a graduate degree in computer science. It is a 31 credit hour degree program that does not require a thesis, final oral exam or on-campus residency. All applicants must submit a GRE score.

Admission Requirements

Students should have the following background in order to be considered for admission into the MCS degree program:

- Undergraduate coursework in a three-semester sequence in differential and integral calculus, a calculus-based course in probability and statistics, and computer science courses equivalent to CSC 116, 216, 226, 236, 316 and either 333 or 456. (See http://www2.acs.ncsu.edu/reg_records/crs_cat/dir_CSC.html)
- A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0.
- Completion of the general Graduate Record Exam (GRE) for all applicants.

The distance education MCS degree program is limited to those individuals who work or reside in the United States. The Graduate School requires that all international applicants take the TOEFL examination if they have not received a degree from a U.S. institution.

Degree Requirements

- Completion of 31 credit hours of graduate coursework (ten courses). At least 22 hours must be in courses bearing the CSC prefix and must include CSC 600.
- Completion of a minimum of three core CSC courses from the theory and systems categories, one from one category and two from the other category.
- The remaining three courses may consist of any graduate level engineering, computer science, mathematics, or statistics courses offered through Engineering Online or on campus.

All requirements for the degree must be completed within six years of enrolling in the first course appearing on the NC State graduate transcript. Admitted students must comply with the Graduate School regulations for continuous enrollment or must request a leave of absence not to exceed one year. You can find out more about the degree requirements at http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/academics/graduate/degrees/mcsdl.php.

Course Registration

It is preferable to seek admission to the MCS program as soon as possible to assure integration into the advising process. However, a person does not have to be admitted to a degree program to enroll in an online credit course. Prior to applying to Graduate School, a qualified individual may enroll in Engineering Online courses as a Non-Degree Studies (NDS) student. The NDS classification is designed for individuals who wish to undertake academic work but who are not currently admitted to a degree program. If the student is admitted to the MCS program, a maximum of twelve hours taken as a NDS student or from another institution may apply toward the 31 credit hour requirement. Students register for online courses through Engineering Online. Those who wish to take only a few courses and not

pursue a degree do not need to apply for formal program admission to NC State University. However, students who wish to earn the MCS degree must formally apply for admission to the Graduate School at http://www.ncsu.edu/grad. When completing the online application, please be sure to select the "Distance Track" version of the degree.

To register for an Engineering Online course, complete the registration form on the Engineering Online website at http://engineeringonline.ncsu.edu by clicking on "Registration". Students cannot register through the University MyPack Portal system for Engineering Online courses.

Course Offerings

A list of distance education courses available for each semester can be found on the Engineering Online website. Full-time employed individuals may only enroll in two online courses per semester. It is highly recommended that new students enroll in only one course during their first semester.

Courses for the Graduate Plan of Work are selected with the concurrence of the student's advisor from the following courses and others that may become available.

CSC Core Requirements
At least two courses must be taken from one of the following categories and one from the other category.

Category 1: Theory	Category 2: Systems
CSC 505 Algorithms	CSC 501 Operating Systems
CSC 512 Compiler Construction	CSC 506 Architecture of Parallel Computers
CSC 565 Graph Theory	CSC 510 Software Engineering
CSC 579 Performance Modeling	CSC 520 Artificial Intelligence
CSC 580 Numerical Analysis	CSC 562 Graphics
	CSC 570 Networks

For a list of distance education courses approved for the fall, spring or summer semester, visit the Engineering Online web site at http://engineeringonline.ncsu.edu.

For more complete information about the Master of Computer Science degree program please visit the website at http://www.csc.ncsu.edu/academics/graduate/degrees/mcsdl.php.

Course Logistics

Online courses are the same as on campus courses in terms of content, requirements and academic rigor. On-campus class lectures are captured, digitized and placed on the Internet for distance students to access at any time and from any location. Students must, however, follow the on-campus class schedule in terms of submitting homework and taking exams. Course assignments, lecture notes, and handouts are made available to distance students on the course website. All in-class exams must be proctored.

Contact Information

- For program questions, contact:

  Graduate Programs Office
  Department of Computer Science
  Telephone: 919.515.2882
  Email: csc_gradadmissions@ncsu.edu
  Department website: http://www.csc.ncsu.edu

- For more information about the registration process, course offerings and course logistics, contact:

  Mr. Richard Shryock, Associate Director of Distance Education Programs
  College of Engineering
  Telephone: 919.513.3815
  Email: richard_shryock@ncsu.edu
  Engineering Online website: http://engineeringonline.ncsu.edu