Computer Science (Big Data Systems), MCS

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MCS Computer Science (Big Data Systems)
The big data systems concentration under the MCS degree program is designed for graduate students who want to pursue a thorough education in the area of big data systems.

The program is designed to provide students the knowledge, skills and expertise in designing scalable systems (parallel, distributed and real time) for acquiring, storing, processing and accessing large-scale heterogeneous multisource data and in using analytical tools to mine information from the data.

Graduates are able to choose and deploy the appropriate data management processing and analysis systems with a suitable structured or unstructured data model that a particular task and domain application needs.

At a Glance

- **College/School:** [Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe campus](#) or [online](#)

Accelerated Program Options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree with:

Computer Science, BS
Computer Science (Cybersecurity), BS
Computer Science (Software Engineering), BS
Computer Systems Engineering, BSE
Computer Systems Engineering (Cybersecurity), BSE

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior year, eligible students are advised by their academic departments to apply.

Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a portfolio

Required Core Areas (9 credit hours)
applications (3)
foundations (3)
systems (3)

Concentration (9 credit hours)
CSE 511 Data Processing at Scale (3)
CSE 575 Statistical Machine Learning (3)
CSE 578 Data Visualization (3)

Restricted Electives (6 credit hours)

Electives (6 credit hours)

Culminating Experience (0 credit hours)
portfolio (0)

Additional Curriculum Information
Students should see the academic unit for the list of courses approved for electives and each core area in applications, foundations and systems.

Coursework selected as part of the area core may not be used as elective coursework on the same plan of study. Students should check with their academic advisor to ensure that the total number of credit hours of their plan of study is equal to 30.

At least 24 of these hours must be CSE 5XX credits at ASU. A maximum of four CSE 598 courses may be allowed as elective coursework, which cannot include courses taken at the undergraduate level. All 30 credit hours must be from formal coursework (including CSE 591). CSE 590 is not allowed as part of the Master of Computer Science program plan of study.

All Master of Computer Science program students must complete a project portfolio from three courses in which the student received a "B" grade (scale is 4.00 = "A") or higher.
Admission Requirements

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree in computer science, computer engineering or a closely related area from a regionally accredited institution.

Applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program.

Applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores (optional, but strongly recommended)
4. statement of purpose OR curriculum vitae
5. letters of recommendation are optional
6. proof of English proficiency

Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English must provide proof of English proficiency regardless of current residency.

Students assigned any deficiency coursework upon admission must complete those classes with a grade of "B" (scale is 4.00="A") or higher within two semesters of admission to the program. Deficiency courses include:

CSE 230 Computer Organization and Assembly Language Programming (3)
CSE 310 Data Structures and Algorithms (3)
CSE 330 Operating Systems (3)
CSE 340 Principles of Programming Languages (3) or CSE 355 Introduction to Theoretical Computer Science (3)

The applicant's undergraduate GPA and depth of preparation in computer science and engineering are the primary factors affecting admission.

Attend Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may view the program description and request more information here.

Application Deadlines
Career Opportunities

Graduates who complete the Master in Computer Science program are able to analyze key theories, algorithms and software modules used in the field of computer science. There is a growing need for data scientists and engineers who can architect, implement and manage large data systems. Graduates of this program have a competitive advantage in securing employment.

Career examples include:

- computer network architect
- computer system analyst
- computer systems engineer
- data scientist or engineer
- machine learning, AI computer vision engineer
- software engineer
- software developer

Contact Information

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[Admission Deadlines](#)