Computer Science (Information Assurance), MS

Program Description

Degree Awarded: MS Computer Science (Information Assurance)

The MS program in computer science with a concentration in information assurance is designed for graduate students who want to pursue a thorough education in the area of information assurance. The goal of this concentration is to provide students the knowledge and skills needed in science and engineering for information assurance. This includes computer and network security, software security, data and information security, applied cryptography and computer forensics. Students will have a competitive advantage to secure employment.

According to the National Security Agency, information assurance is defined as the set of measures intended to protect and defend information and information systems by ensuring their availability, integrity, authentication, confidentiality and nonrepudiation. This includes providing restoration of information systems by incorporating protection, detection and reaction capabilities.

Information assurance courseware at ASU has been certified by the Information Assurance Courseware Evaluation Program to satisfy the standards for Information Systems Security Professionals (NSTISSI 4011) and Senior Systems Managers (CNSSI 4012). For more information on information assurance courseware at ASU, students should see http://ia.asu.edu/education.php.

At a Glance

- College/School: Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering
- Location: Tempe campus

Accelerated Degrees
This degree is also offered in an **accelerated format** with:

- Computer Science, BS
- Computer Science (Information Assurance), BS
- Computer Science (Software Engineering), BS
- Computer Systems Engineering, BSE
- Computer Systems Engineering (Information Assurance), BSE

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. During their junior and senior years, eligible students will be advised by their academic departments to apply.

## Degree Requirements

30 credit hours and a thesis

**Required Core Areas (9 credit hours)**

- applications (3)
- foundations (3)
- systems (3)

**Concentration (9 credit hours)**

- CSE 543 Information Assurance and Security (3)
- CSE 545 Software Security (3)
- CSE 548 Advanced Computer Network Security (3)

**Electives (6 credit hours)**

**Culminating Experience (6 credit hours)**

- CSE 599 Thesis (6)

**Additional Curriculum Information**

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

Courses that are used to satisfy the concentration requirement on the plan of study cannot be used to satisfy the core requirement. Additionally, courses selected as part of the core or concentration may not be used as other elective coursework on the same plan of study.

Students will complete a minimum of 30 credit hours for the program. At least 24 of these credit hours must be 500-level CSE courses at ASU. Up to six credit hours of 400-level courses may be applied to the plan of study.
Students must complete 15 credit hours of approved information assurance coursework. Students should see the School of Computing, Informatics, and Decision Systems Engineering website for more information.

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

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. scores for the GRE, unless the student has graduated with an undergraduate degree in computer science or computer systems engineering at ASU
4. a statement of purpose
5. three letters of recommendation
6. proof of English proficiency

## Additional Application Information

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency [https://students.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency](https://students.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency).

Applicants 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)
- CSE 355 Introduction to Theoretical Computer Science (3)
- CSE 360 Introduction to Software Engineering (3)
The applicant's undergraduate GPA and depth of preparation in computer science and engineering are the primary factors affecting admission.

Applicants should see the program website for application deadlines.

**Contact Information**

Computer Science and Engineering Program | BYENG 225
cidse.advising@asu.edu | 480-965-3199