

QAs

Dual and Graduate Programs in the Department of Computer Science

Version 5/27/2021

Graduate school [regulations](#).

2+3, Dual Degree

More information

- [Departmental](#)
- [Graduate school](#)

I am an undergrad, why would I apply?

Assuming you want to stay for the MS program, 2+3 offers to speed up the process by counting up to 12 credits into both BS and MS programs.

I am an undergrad, how would I apply?

Discuss this and advise with the 2+3 coordinator [as listed here](#) then submit [this form](#).

When in 2+3, am I eligible for undergraduate scholarships and graduate assistantships?

In 2+3, you start 2+3 as an undergraduate student and then apply to be classified as a graduate student.

If you applied for a departmental undergraduate scholarship when still classified as an undergraduate, and you received it, it will be distributed even if you change standing to graduate in the 2+3 program.

You are eligible for graduate assistantships once classified as a graduate student.

Can I take courses to count for both BS and MS while still classified as an undergraduate student

Yes you can, using the [C1 form](#). This is restricted to only 6 credits, either 4xxx, 5xxx or 6xxx. To take more graduate credits, you need to change your status to graduate standing.

Which courses count toward MS

The 30 credits toward MS must consist only of courses taken in graduate standing (plus those on C1).

How many credits I need to the BS+MS

The combined BS+MS will require minimum 132 credits. Which is 120 for BS, 30 for MS, with 12 double counted. To be double-counted, a course must be taken in graduate standing (or on C1), with a limit of 12 credits. Other courses must apply only toward BS or toward MS. BS credits can include courses taken in graduate standing.

Admissions to MS

More information

- [departmental](#)

I don't have a Computer Science background, can I still apply for the MS program

More information available [here](#). The MS programs, in Computer Science and in Cybersecurity, do not require a BS in Computer Science but instead they require certain subject areas as prerequisites. You can apply with 2-3 missing prerequisites and be admitted on a restricted status – you will have to complete the prerequisites asap or remove the restriction based on new evidence.

If more missing, you will have to take some of the required prerequisites and reapply when 2-3 missing at most.

- You can be taking your missing prerequisites as an undergraduate student in one of our programs, or as a graduate non-degree student. Undergraduate standing has a lower cost but you can only take prerequisites not counting toward MS. If you want to take some prerequisites as well as some courses to count toward MS, the status should be graduate.
- Non-degree classification may prevent financial aid if any.

Is the program full-time or part-time

It is the student's choice unless otherwise dictated. You can find the definition of [normal course loads and the definition of full-time](#). The student who has full-time employment normally pursues the degree part-time. All courses can be taken evening and/or online. There also are the rules on the [time limits on completion of degree requirements](#) and the requirements for minimum enrollment.

I am interested in cybersecurity, should I study Ms in Cybersecurity or MS in Computer Science

If your interest is cybersecurity, you can either study MS in Cybersecurity, or you can study MS in Computer Science with the Cybersecurity certificate. The entry requirements are minimally different, and graduation requirements can be different or very similar depending on your choices of elective courses.

My GPA is low for admission

The graduate school requires a minimum of 3.0, or 2.75 with additional justification and evidence. This can be an undergraduate GPA, or GPA from some graduate study even if not completed. The additional evidence could be GRE, letters of recommendation, a related work history as explained in your statement – applications between 2.75 and 2.99 will typically not be considered unless the additional evidence is provided.

If all GPA is too low (below 2.75, or below 3.0 and lacking additional evidence), you may take some courses here or elsewhere and reapply, then your newest GPA can be taken as additional evidence. The courses can be taken as an undergraduate or graduate student – those taken as an undergraduate student cannot be used toward your graduate work though.

Can I transfer some credits into MS

Yes, up to 1/3 of the required total credits can be transferred in, must be taken at graduate standing with some additional requirements.

How the MS certificate option works

The certificate requires a separate application. You can apply for MS and then a certificate, or the other way around, but you have to apply to both. The second application will not require transcripts, fees (according to the graduate school).

The certificate by itself will not trigger an I-20 visa for international students, as the MS would.

The same courses can be counted toward the MS requirements and a certificate.

The certificate is printed on the transcript, along with MS if you completed both. A separate certificate printout can be requested from the department.

If you wish to graduate under the certificate option, you must obtain, or file for the certificate graduation, before or at the same time as applying for MS graduation.

Depending on your studies and choices of certificates, it is possible to obtain two certificates with your MS without extra credits.

What are the requirements to start a graduate certificate

Each graduate certificate has some specific prerequisites. Graduate students in any of the departmental programs will be admitted without prerequisites. Others may be admitted provisionally or be asked to take a few of the missing prerequisites and reapply.

Studies

How to properly select courses to take

The graduation requirements are posted [starting here](#). In addition to fulfilling all stated requirements, you must also have a GPA minimum of 3.0 to graduate.

Discuss with your advisor your plan of study, taking into account course rotation, your interests, and availability. [Rotations](#) are published online.

- Plan ahead for thesis or a 6xxx level course as they rotate sparsely and have prerequisites.
- Take electives you want to take when offered.

Can I waive some requirements

You can apply for a waiver. Discuss this with your advisor. The waiver can be based on a similar experience or a similar course that didn't transfer otherwise. The waiver does not give you credits, just allows you to not take a specific course if otherwise required.

Which MS degree version can I follow if it changed

Your default plan is the one active when you were are graduating. If you started under a different program and you wish to graduate under the old one, you must let your advisor know this when applying for graduation.

How many credits do I need to take per semester

If you are an international student on a visa, or financed by a specific program, you may be required to be taking a specific load such as full-time. The programs themselves do not require a full-time load.

Visa students need to be enrolled in min. 9 credit hours in SP and FS semesters.

Such requirements can be waived in specific circumstances by using so-called equivalency hours.

- Students can apply for 3 credit equivalencies (waiving 3 credit hours) based on language or other difficulties, typically in the first semester.
- GTA/GRA students can use up to 3 credit equivalencies per semester when full time (20 hours/week), and two credit equivalencies when between 10 and 19 hours a week.
- Students doing an MS thesis can use up to 8 credit equivalencies in the last semester, which could be extended one semester.

Can I take courses or the program online

Any of the programs can be completed completely online. However, only an online-designated program guarantees the availability of the necessary online courses. You can complete the other programs online as well if you find suitable online courses, or you may take some semesters online and some semesters on campus. International students do not need a visa to be taking online courses without arriving in the US.

Can I apply for graduate teaching or research assistantships

- GTA is awarded by the department and the main duties are teaching, grading, and/or tutoring. You must be graduate standing with no restrictions when starting GTA.
- GRA is given by individual faculty, contact them directly if your interests and studies align with those of the faculty. Review the departmental [research pages](#) for more information.
- [More details](#)

My GPA is low while in the graduate program

You must have a minimum of 3.0 to graduate. If you fulfilled all requirements and are below 3.0, you must be taking additional courses until you meet the required 3.0 GPA.

When you fall below 3.0, you may be dismissed unless you and your advisor present a sound plan on how to improve your GPA in which case you would continue on probation. To faster improve your GPA, you may apply for [grade replacement](#). Currently, you can replace any grade with a grade from another course that you want to take even if not the same course or if the first was required. The replaced course is then not used in GPA calculation, potentially raising GPA faster. However, the replaced course cannot be used for a certificate or a program.

Graduating

I am missing some of the required colloquia, can I graduate with MS

This is in departmental discretion, based on the availability of the colloquia, etc. In general, you should expect to have to complete this requirement. Contact your advisor.

How to graduate

In the last semester, you need to file [M4](#) to graduate with MS and/or certificate (each requires a separate M4). If wanting to graduate with MS under the certificate option, you must have the certificate already awarded or applied for graduation at the same time as applying for MS graduation.

I missed the deadline to file for graduation

If you are doing a thesis, you must be enrolled in the semester when graduating. Otherwise, you just file for graduation when completing or after completing the requirements as long as you are still a student.