Master of Science
Computer Science (MS)

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This program is designed for students with a strong background in computer science. ODU’s Department of Computer Science supports in-depth study at the graduate level in areas such as data science, machine learning, bioinformatics, web science and digital libraries, high performance computing, cyber security, data mining, networking, software engineering, and computational foundations.

The department’s MS degrees are available both on-campus and online.

Admission

Entrance Requirements

Students entering the Master of Science program in computer science should meet the minimum university graduate admission requirements (https://www.odu.edu/admission/graduate). In addition, an applicant must have a strong background in computer science. Students who do not have a sufficient background in computer science may enter the graduate program as provisional students and make up for their deficiencies by taking appropriate courses. Applicants are required to take the GRE general test. For the Information & Communications Technology concentration (described below), the GMAT aptitude test may be used. Two letters of recommendation from faculty members of academic institutions are required in addition to all transcripts at the postsecondary level. For students whose native language is not English, either a TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based) and 79 (internet-based) or IELTS score of 6.5 is also required.

Curriculum Requirements

The departmental requirements for the Master’s degree are described below. All these requirements must be satisfied in addition to the University requirements outlined under the University Requirements for Graduate Degrees & Certificates section of this Catalog.

Core Courses

The following core courses are required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS 665</td>
<td>Computer Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 500</td>
<td>Foundations of Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 600</td>
<td>Algorithms and Data Structures</td>
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</tbody>
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Total Credit Hours: 6

MS students in the thesis option are required to take CS 665 and CS 600 to satisfy the core requirement.

Colloquium

Each student is required to take a one-credit CS 690 (Computer Science Colloquium) and attend at least 10 departmental colloquiums during their MS study.

Course Options

Three options are available for candidates for master’s degrees:

- thesis option,
- project option, and
- course-only option.

Thesis Option

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course work</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis research</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
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