MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.)
MAJOR IN COMPUTER
SCIENCE (NON-THESIS
OPTION)

Program Overview
The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree with a major in Computer Science is
designed to prepare students for doctoral research, college teaching,
careers in computer science and software engineering, and careers in
digital forensics.

Application Requirements
The items listed below are required for admission consideration
for applicable semesters of entry during the current academic
year. Submission instructions, additional details, and changes
to admission requirements for semesters other than the current
academic year can be found on The Graduate College’s website
(http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu). International students should
review the International Admission Documents webpage
(http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/admission-documents/international/) for additional requirements.

• completed online application
• $55 nonrefundable application fee

or

• $90 nonrefundable application fee for applications with international
credentials
• baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited university
• official transcripts from each institution where course credit was
granted
• minimum 2.75 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work
(plus any completed graduate courses)
• background course work
• official GRE (general test only) with competitive scores in the verbal
reasoning and quantitative reasoning sections
  • The GRE may be waived if the student holds a master’s or
doctoral degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution. If
the student holds a master's or doctoral degree (or the equivalent
thereof) from an accredited international institution, the GRE may
be waived on an individual basis.

• resume/CV
• statement of purpose
• three letters of recommendation

TOEFL or IELTS Scores
Non-native English speakers who do not qualify for an English
proficiency waiver:

• official TOEFL iBT scores required with a 78 overall
• official IELTS (academic) scores required with a 6.5 overall and
minimum individual module scores of 6.0

*Additional Information
Students admitted to the program will participate in a diagnostic
interview with the graduate advisor. This interview will include a review of
test scores, grades, and work history. In some cases, additional courses
may be added to the degree program.

Degree Requirements
The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree with a major in Computer Science
requires 36 semester credit hours.

Background
Students are required to fulfill background course work if they do not
have adequate undergraduate computer science background. The
background requirements may be reduced if evidence is presented which
shows that the applicant has taken equivalent courses elsewhere prior to
enrollment at Texas State. Background work must be completed before
enrolling in graduate courses.

The minimum undergraduate background requirements for computer
science and software engineering majors are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS 1428</td>
<td>Foundations of Computer Science I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 2308</td>
<td>Foundations of Computer Science II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 2318</td>
<td>Assembly Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 3339</td>
<td>Computer Architecture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 3358</td>
<td>Data Structures and Algorithms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 4318</td>
<td>Compiler Construction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CS 4328</td>
<td>Operating Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced computer science electives (CS 3000-4000 level)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 5358</td>
<td>Applied Discrete Mathematics (or equivalent)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 These courses must be completed with no grade less than “C” and no
more than two “Cs.”
2 These courses must be completed with no grade less than “C.”

Course Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS 5329</td>
<td>Algorithm Design and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 5346</td>
<td>Advanced Artificial Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 5391</td>
<td>Survey of Software Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 5306</td>
<td>Advanced Operating Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CS 5310</td>
<td>Network and Communication Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CS 5332</td>
<td>Data Base Theory and Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS 5318</td>
<td>Design of Programming Languages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CS 5338</td>
<td>Formal Languages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives
Choose 12 hours of advisor-approved electives

Minor
Comprehensive Examination Requirement

The comprehensive exams of computer science master programs consist of multiple components. Specifically, all Computer Science graduate students must complete/pass:

1. **Degree Outline**: Have a degree outline prepared before the end of their first semester. Currently this is done during the mandatory diagnostic interview sessions for newly admitted CS master degree students.
2. **Programming Exam**: Pass a written exam in programming.
3. **Communication Exam**: Pass a written exam in communication.
4. **Attendance requirement of computer science seminars**.
5. For non-thesis students, the written core course exam.

Failure to complete 1, 2, or 3 will result in a "hold" on registration and may cause delays in taking/passing the comprehensive examination. Details of 2, 3, 4, and 5 are described below.

Programming Exam

The Programming Exam integrates problem-solving and technical abilities to write clear and logical code. The exam format is written.

- The allowable programming languages are C++/Java. Students can elect either of the two.
- This exam is given to newly admitted graduate students twice a year. Students are notified of the registration by the department for the exam. A student who doesn't participate in the exam without the department approval forfeits the opportunity of taking the exam and must take the remedy course CS 5301.
- The exam is typically administrated during the week before the fall or spring semester starts.
- Students who fail the Programming Exam are required to take the remedy course CS 5301 immediately. Students must obtain a grade B or higher of CS 5301 in order to satisfy the programming exam requirement. Students are allowed to take CS 5301 twice.

Communication Exam

The Communication Exam tests the ability to write clear technical English on computer science topics. All students must satisfy one of the following three options:

- Have a score of 3.5 or higher on the Analytical Writing section of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).
- Take the Communication Exam and earn a passing score in the first long semester.
  a. This exam is given to newly admitted graduate students during their first semester (Spring or Fall semester only).
  b. Students are registered and notified by the department for this exam.
  c. This exam can only be taken once during the first semester of initial enrollment.
- Complete one of the following Texas State English courses, ENG 3313, ENG 3311, or ENG 3303, and earn a grade of B or higher. Students must register for one of the English courses by the end of the student’s first year in the graduate program. There is no limit on the number of times the students can take those English courses.

Students who perform unacceptably on the exam may take the exam a second time. A third test administration is at the discretion of the committee that administers the exams, based on intensive and documented justification provided by the student.

Exams are given during the fall and spring semesters.

Students are required to register for the exam a week in advance of the announced exam date.

Students who do not successfully complete the requirements for the degree within the timelines specified will be dismissed from the program.

Courses Offered

**Computer Science (CS)**

**CS 5100. Advanced Computer Science Internship.**
This course provides advanced training supervised by computer scientists in internship programs approved by the department. Course cannot be counted toward any graduate degree, is open only to majors in the Department of Computer Science. May be repeated once. This course does not earn graduate degree credit. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.

1 Credit Hour. 0 Lecture Contact Hours. 1 Lab Contact Hour.

**Course Attribute(s):** Exclude from 3-peat Processing/Graduate Assistantship|Exclude from Graduate GPA

**Grade Mode:** Leveling/Assistantships

**CS 5199B. Thesis.**
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

1 Credit Hour. 1 Lecture Contact Hour. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit

**CS 5299B. Thesis.**
This course represents a student's continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.

2 Credit Hours. 2 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.

**Grade Mode:** Credit/No Credit
CS 5300. Professional Development of Graduate Assistants.
This course is designed to develop and enhance the professional and
technical skills of graduate teaching and instructional assistants. Topics
covered may include, but are not limited to, teaching skills, technical
skills, ethical and legal issues, and laboratory management. This course
does not earn graduate degree credit.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Graduate AssistantshipExclude from Graduate GPA
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

CS 5301. Programming Practicum.
Intensive review of programming through data structures. Includes
syntax, semantics, problem solving, algorithm development, and in-class
exercises. May be repeated once. This course does not earn graduate
degree credit. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing Exclude from
Graduate GPA Grad Leveling
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

CS 5302. Foundations of Data Structures and Algorithm Design.
This course serves as a foundation course for computer science master’s
degree students who need reinforcement of fundamental concepts
covered by CS 3358. May be repeated once. This course does not earn
graduate degree credit. Prerequisite: Instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing Exclude from
Graduate GPA
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

This foundation course for CS master’s degree students who need
CS 3339 concept reinforcement covers fundamental hardware
components. Topics include ALUs, single and multiple cycle datapath
and control, RISC vs. CISC, pipelining, caches, I/O, virtual memory, and related
performance issues. It may be repeated once and is non-graduate degree
credit. Prerequisite: Instructor Approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing Exclude from
Graduate GPA
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

A study of modern operating systems including network, distributed, or
real-time systems. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and CS 4328 both with grades
of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This foundation course is for CS master’s students who need CS 4328
fundamental concept reinforcement. It covers the principles of operating
systems, algorithms for CPU scheduling, memory management,
cooperating sequential processes and device management. It may
be repeated once. This course does not earn graduate degree credit.
Prerequisite: Instructor Approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing Exclude from
Graduate GPA
Grade Mode: Leveling/Assistantships

A study of modern operating systems including network, distributed, or
real-time systems. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and CS 4328 both with grades
of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of network and communication systems. Verification and/or
implementation of protocols will be required. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a
grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5308. Data Base Theory and Design.
This course covers fundamental concepts and techniques plus recent
developments in data mining and information retrieval. It provides
relevant research training and practice opportunities. May not be taken
for credit if student received credit for CS 4315. Prerequisite: CS 3358
with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5309. Algorithm Design and Analysis.
Introduction to algorithm design and analysis, computational complexity,
NP – completeness theory. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and MATH 2472 and
[MATH 3398 or MATH 5358] all with grades of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of network and communication systems. Verification and/or
implementation of protocols will be required. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a
grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5311. Principles of Programming Languages.
This course focuses on the principles of programming languages. Topics
covered include programming paradigms, concepts of programming
languages, formal syntax and semantics, and language implementation
issues. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5312. Data Base Theory and Design.
This course covers fundamental concepts and techniques plus recent
developments in data mining and information retrieval. It provides
relevant research training and practice opportunities. May not be taken
for credit if student received credit for CS 4315. Prerequisite: CS 3358
with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5313. Algorithm Design and Analysis.
Introduction to algorithm design and analysis, computational complexity,
NP – completeness theory. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and MATH 2472 and
[MATH 3398 or MATH 5358] all with grades of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of modern operating systems including network, distributed, or
real-time systems. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and CS 4328 both with grades
of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
CS 5334. Advanced Internet Information Processing.
Integration of popular scripting languages (Perl, JavaScript, PHP, and other CGI capable languages) and database programming languages (embedded database programming languages, Java Servlets, and PHP) to provide advanced information processing for Internet applications that demand both database support and sophisticated, application specific information processing. Prerequisite: CS 4332 or CS 5332 either with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5338. Formal Languages.
Advanced topics in automata theory, grammars, Turing machines, decidability, and algorithmic complexity. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and MATH 3398 both with grades of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Study of advanced concepts and programming skills in computer networks such as advanced TCP/IP, API, multicasting and broadcasting, reliable communications, advanced I/O functions and options. Prerequisite: CS 5310 with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5343. Wireless Communications and Networks.
Study of the fundamental aspects of wireless communications and wireless/mobile networks, introduction of wireless/mobile networking APIs. Prerequisites: CS 3358 with a grade of "B" or better and CS 5310 with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5344. Advanced Artificial Intelligence.
Knowledge representation; knowledge engineering; parallel and distributed AI; heuristic searches; machine learning and intelligent databases; implementation of systems in high-level AI languages. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5351. Parallel Processing.
Introduction to the design and analysis of parallel algorithms, parallel architectures, and computers. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and CS 4328 both with grades of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5352. Distributed Computing.
Study of advanced topics in distributed systems: concurrency control and failure recovery, management of replicated data, distributed consensus and fault tolerance, remote procedure calls, naming and security. Prerequisites: CS 3358 and CS 4328 both with grades of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5359B. Computer Vision.
This course covers the basic and recent topics in computer vision. Topics include classic computer vision features, object tracking and recognition, detection and segmentation, camera models, and image and video retrieval. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5369G. Web Service Engineering.
Advanced concepts and techniques for enabling Web application integration and interaction using Semantic Web and Web services. Concepts and techniques include service discovery ontology (RDF, DAML-S), XML-based interactions standards (ebXML, RosettaNet) and Web Services (WSDL, SOAP, UDDI, BPEL). Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5369J. Advanced Human Computer Interaction.
This course will cover state of the art human computer interaction topics such as perceptual compression, eye-gaze, and brain computer interfaces with emphasis on the human visual system, eye-tracking, and electroencephalography. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "D" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5369L. Machine Learning and Applications.
Provides broad introduction to machine learning, including learning theory, and recent topics like support vector machines and feature selection. Covers basic ideas, intuition, and understanding behind modern machine learning methods. Discusses applications like face recognition, text recognition, biometrics, bioinformatics, and multimedia retrieval. Prerequisite: CS 3358 grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5369M. Software Evolution and Maintenance.
Software evolution and maintenance is one of the most important and complex activities in software engineering. Programmers rarely build software from scratch but often modify existing software to fix defects or add new features. This course studies the fundamentals of cutting-edge techniques and tools for software evolution and maintenance. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.

3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter
CS 5369Q. Recommender Systems.
This course covers various concepts of recommender systems, including personalization algorithms, evaluation tools, and user experiences. Discussion of how recommender systems are deployed in business applications, design of new recommender experiences, and how to conduct and evaluate research in recommender systems. Cannot take for credit if already took CS 4379Q. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better or instructor approval.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5369Y. Green Computing.
Reducing mobile device, cloud computing platform, and supercomputer energy consumption is a paramount, daunting problem. This course covers state-of-the-art green computing research, including energy-efficient hardware and software design, power-aware resource management and storage solutions, green data centers and mobile computing. Cannot be taken for credit if received CS 4379Y credit. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Course Attribute(s): Exclude from 3-peat Processing|Topics
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of the digital representation and processing of major multimedia data types: image, audio, and video. Compression techniques for the three data types, standards, and storage media. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

This course covers various aspects of producing secure computer information systems that provide guaranteed controlled sharing. Emphasis is on software models and design, including discovery and prevention of computing systems security vulnerabilities. Current systems and methods are examined and critiqued. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

A study of the algorithms and data structures used in representing and processing visual data. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5389. Graphical User Interfaces.
Covers both abstract and practical treatments of using graphics to implement interactive computer/human interfaces. Includes a survey of the major GUI standards and tools. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5391. Survey of Software Engineering.
A study of the software life cycle with emphasis on system analysis and design. Methodologies based on data flows and on objects will be surveyed. A component on professional ethics is included. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

The use of design and specification languages in producing software systems. Emphasis is placed on proving correctness of designs and implementations. Prerequisites: CS 5391 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5393. Software Quality.
The latter half of the software life cycle is discussed. Topics include testing, performance evaluation, and software metrics. Appropriate software tools are studied and used. Prerequisite: CS 5391 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5394. Advanced Software Engineering Project.
Students produce a software project of significant size in a team environment. All aspects of the software engineering course sequence are integrated and put into practice. Prerequisite: CS 5391 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

Open to graduate students on an independent basis by arrangement with the faculty member concerned. Course is not repeatable for credit. Prerequisite: CS 3358 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

The essentials of software engineering processes, methods, and tools for the evolutionary design of complex interactive software are discussed. Overviews of other topics like quality concepts, SEI CMM, information technology, and network technology are covered. Student completes a literature survey of the latest software engineering analysis and design processes, methods, and tools. Prerequisite: CS 5391 with a grade of "C" or better.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Standard Letter

CS 5399A. Thesis.
This course represents a student's initial thesis enrollment. No thesis credit is awarded until the student has completed the thesis in CS 5399B.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit
CS 5399B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollment. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

CS 5599B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
5 Credit Hours. 5 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit

CS 5999B. Thesis.
This course represents a student’s continuing thesis enrollments. The student continues to enroll in this course until the thesis is submitted for binding.
9 Credit Hours. 9 Lecture Contact Hours. 0 Lab Contact Hours.
Grade Mode: Credit/No Credit