

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Degree: Master of Science
 Department: Computer Science
 Building 79, Room 102
 (850) 474-2542
<http://www.cs.uwf.edu/computerscience@uwf.edu>

College: Arts and Sciences

The Computer Science Department offers two graduate specializations: Computer Science (CS) and Software Engineering (SE).

Students entering the CS specialization normally have an undergraduate degree in Computer Science but may come from another scientific discipline. A graduate of this specialization is a software and hardware specialist with a deep understanding of the nature of algorithms in terms of expression, development, resource usage and limitations. He/she is prepared to develop software at any level of abstraction, from machine code to distributed processes. He/she is prepared for a career as a programmer or advanced software developer and may consider continuing on to Ph.D. studies.

Students entering the SE specialization may have an undergraduate degree in CS or CIS but may also come from another discipline. A graduate of this specialization is a system specialist, prepared to plan, configure, implement, and maintain computing systems. While he/she will have significant programming skills, he/she will focus more on the whole life cycle including communication with users, developing requirements, testing and deploying systems, and managing the whole Software Engineering process. He/she may also be deeply familiar with a specific problem domain (e.g. medical software, chemistry, data acquisition systems, computer games, etc.) and with the software development issues associated with that domain.

Numerous local and regional companies and governmental agencies employ computer science students in cooperative education programs (co-op).

The Department annually awards several scholarships, fellowships, and out-of-state tuition waivers to new and returning students. The department also has limited opportunities for teaching/research assistantships for new and returning students. Contact the department chairperson for information.

In addition to general University requirements, students seeking the M.S. in Computer Science must meet the requirements listed below.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for admission, applicants must provide a completed University application, three letters of recommendation from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's academic ability, and a letter of intent stating the goals of the applicant. Students must satisfy the University-wide graduate admissions requirements, including those for Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. Additionally, international applicants must satisfy the University TOEFL requirement (see the Graduate Admissions and International Student Admission sections of the *Catalog*).

As part of the admission process, the graduate director will interview each student to discuss prior coursework, life experiences, and goals. The purpose of the interview is to determine any preparatory undergraduate courses needed to prepare for the graduate program. An initial degree plan will be provided to the student at the end of the interview. Changes to the initial degree plan must be approved by the graduate director.

During the student's first semester of study, a faculty member will be selected to serve as chair of the student's Graduate Advisory Committee. Remaining members of the committee will be chosen by the student and committee chair before the student completes 12 semester hours of coursework. The Graduate Advisory Committee will guide the student's elective choices, research and capstone experience.

Non-degree students may be given a tentative degree plan by the graduate director. Upon admission to the program, students may petition the department chairperson to count up to 12 semester hours of graduate level course work taken while enrolled as a non-degree student towards their graduate degree.

COMPUTER SCIENCE SPECIALIZATION

Foundational Proficiencies

COP 4020	Programming Languages	3
CDA 6415	Advanced Computer Systems	4
COP 6025	Advanced Programming Languages	4
6000 level advisor approved elective		3
5000/6000 level advisor approved electives		15

Choose one:

CIS 6971	Thesis	6
	Course offered as 1-6 sh per semester	
COT 6931	Computer Science Project	6
	(normally 3 sh in consecutive semesters)	

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING SPECIALIZATION

CEN 6016	Software Engineering Process	4
CEN 6095	Software Engineering Practice and Tools.....	4
6000 level advisor approved elective		3
5000/6000 level advisor approved electives		15

Choose one:

CIS 6971	Thesis	6
	Course offered 1-6 sh per semester	
COT 6931	Computer Science Project	6
	Normally 3 sh in consecutive semesters	