COMPUTER SCIENCES: PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM, M.S.

This is a named option with the Computer Sciences M.S. (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/computer-sciences/computer-sciences-ms)

The program is designed such that working professionals can complete the program and earn an M.S. degree within two years. Professional Master’s students can take coursework in many areas: artificial intelligence, computational biology, computer architecture, computer graphics, computer networks, computer security, database systems, human–computer interaction, numerical analysis, optimization, performance analysis, programming languages and compilers, systems research, and theoretical computer sciences. The Professional Program’s committee advises all computer sciences M.S. students in the Professional Master’s Program. See the department website (https://www.cs.wisc.edu) for faculty interests, research activities, courses, facilities, and degree requirements.

ADMISSIONS

Students with a strong background in computer sciences or a related field are encouraged to apply for admission. At a minimum, the applicant should have had some programming experience, including courses in data structures and machine organization, and should have had a year of college-level mathematics at the calculus level or above. Applicants are evaluated based on their previous academic record, GRE scores, letters of recommendation, and a personal statement. All applications must be submitted online. For more information on admissions, visit the department website (http://www.cs.wisc.edu/academics/graduate-programs/professional-masters/apply).

Please see the Computer Sciences M.S. admissions page (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/computer-sciences/computer-sciences-ms/admissionstext) for traditional M.S. program information.

GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic degree programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet requirements of both the program(s) and the Graduate School. Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions).

FUNDING

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and processes related to funding.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Students enrolled in the COMP SCI Professional Master’s Program cannot accept research assistantships, teaching assistantships, project assistantships or other university appointments that grant waivers of tuition and/or academic fees.

REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM GRADUATE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/#policiesandrequirementstext), in addition to the program requirements listed below.

NAMED OPTION REQUIREMENTS

MODE OF INSTRUCTION

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<th>Mode of Instruction Definitions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evening/Weekend: These programs are offered in an evening and/or weekend format to accommodate working schedules. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses and personal connections, while keeping your day job. For more information about the meeting schedule of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online: These programs are offered primarily online. Many available online programs can be completed almost entirely online with all online programs offering at least 50 percent or more of the program work online. Some online programs have an on-campus component that is often designed to accommodate working schedules. Take advantage of the convenience of online learning while participating in a rich, interactive learning environment. For more information about the online nature of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
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<td>Hybrid: These programs have innovative curricula that combine on-campus and online formats. Most hybrid programs are completed on-campus with a partial or completely online semester. For more information about the hybrid schedule of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accelerated: These on-campus programs are offered in an accelerated format that allows you to complete your program in a condensed time-frame. Enjoy the advantages of on-campus courses with minimal disruption to your career. For more information about the accelerated nature of a specific program, contact the program.</td>
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CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

<table>
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<th>Minimum Credit Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</td>
<td>16 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</td>
<td>Half of degree coursework (15 credits out of 30 total credits) must be completed graduate-level coursework; courses with the Graduate Level Coursework attribute are identified and searchable in the university’s Course Guide.</td>
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Overall Graduate GPA Requirement
3.00 GPA required.

Other Grade Requirements
No other grade requirements.

Assessments and Examinations
None.

Language Requirements
No language requirements.

REQUIRED COURSES
To obtain the M.S. degree, students in the PMP should complete at least 30 credits, with an average grade of at least B, distributed as follows:

• Fifteen credits must be received for core graduate-level courses: Computer Sciences courses (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/comp_sci) numbered 700-889. Specific offerings of COMP SCI/MATH 837, COMP SCI 838, and COMP SCI 880 are counted as core classes only with approval of the Graduate Advising Committee.
• All remaining credits must be received for courses at 400 level or higher.
• COMP SCI 799 Master’s Research and COMP SCI 790 Master’s Thesis (in case the student elects to write a Master’s thesis) can only be taken at most three times, for a total of at most six credits, which count toward the 15 credit requirement above.
• At most three credits can be received for attending Computer Sciences seminars offered by various groups in the department, or department-wide colloquiums. One credit can be earned per semester for attending at least four seminar lectures.

Many Computer Sciences courses have research-intensive project components. PMP students can elect to do instead a project that studies research papers in depth, surveys a cutting-edge topic, or examines how to apply what they learn to their daytime work. In addition, PMP students have the option of conducting independent studies, under the supervision of our faculty.

More details about the curricular requirements and to see a sample course plan that allows a working professional to complete the PMP in two years, see the department website (http://www.cs.wisc.edu/academics/graduate-programs/professional-masters/requirements).

POLICIES

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES
The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures (https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

NAMED OPTION-SPECIFIC POLICIES

GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK
A Graduate Program Handbook containing all of the program’s policies and requirements is forthcoming from the program.

PRIOR COURSEWORK

Graduate Work from Other Institutions
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 14 credits of post-baccalaureate graduate coursework from other institutions. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison Undergraduate
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 7 credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

UW–Madison University Special
With program approval, students are allowed to count no more than 14 credits of coursework numbered 300 or above taken as a UW–Madison University Special student. Coursework earned five or more years prior to admission to a master’s degree is not allowed to satisfy requirements.

PROBATION
At the end of any regular (non-summer) semester, a student is considered to be making satisfactory academic progress (SAP) if the following conditions are all satisfied:

• The student has completed at least 6 (if full load) or 3 (if part load) credits of approved courses during the semester.
• The student has removed all Incomplete grades from any previous regular semester or summer session.
• The student has passed any required exams and procedures within designated time limits.
• The student has passed any required exams and procedures within designated time limits.

Any graduate student who fails to make SAP during two consecutive regular semesters (fall and spring, or spring and fall) will be dismissed from the department at the end of the subsequent summer session. Any graduate student who fails to make SAP due to missed deadlines (criterion 3 above) will be dismissed from the department at the end of the subsequent summer session.

ADVISOR / COMMITTEE
A member of the Professional Programs Committee must formally approve all graduate schedules each semester.

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
15 credits

TIME CONSTRAINTS
Master’s degree students who have been absent for five or more consecutive years lose all credits that they have earned before their absence.

OTHER
Information on the Professional Master’s Program is available at: http://www.cs.wisc.edu/pmp. Students in the Professional Master’s program are not eligible for graduate assistantships.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

GRADUATE SCHOOL RESOURCES
Take advantage of the Graduate School's professional development resources (https://grad.wisc.edu/pd) to build skills, thrive academically, and launch your career.

PROGRAM RESOURCES
The Department of Computer Sciences hosts many professional development opportunities including: job fairs, workshops, seminars, talks, employer information sessions, mentoring and student socials. The Department of Computer Sciences’s student organizations, Student-ACM (SACM) and Women’s ACM (WACM), are active partners in providing professional development opportunities for computer sciences graduate students.

PEOPLE

Faculty: Professors Sohi (chair), Akella, A. Arpaci-Dusseau, R. Arpaci-Dusseau, Bach, Banerjee, Barford, Cai, Chawla, Doan, Ferris, Gleicher, Hill, Jha, Livny, van Melkebeek, Miller, Patel, Reps, Ron, Sankaralingam, Sohi, Swift, Wood, Wright, Zhu; Associate Professors Liblit, Mutlu; Assistant Professors Albarghouti, D’Antoni, Gupta, Koutris, Liang, Rekatsinas, Sifakis. See also Faculty (https://www.cs.wisc.edu/people/faculty) on the department website.