**COMPUTER SCIENCE - MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS)**

The traditional Master of Science degree in computer science permits graduate students the flexibility in defining specialized interdisciplinary fields that meet their professional needs. While pursuing the traditional MS degree in computer science, students may select between the thesis and non-thesis options.

The thesis option is well-suited for students pursuing a career in academia or industry with a research component. With support from the research advisor, students in this program have the option of smoothly transitioning into the PhD program. If a student plans to earn a master’s degree and then immediately continue on to a PhD, they can apply directly to our PhD program. It is not necessary to earn a master’s separately.

For more information, visit the Traditional MS Degree Program Requirements [webpage](http://www.colorado.edu/cs/current-students/graduate-students/ms-degree/traditional-ms-degree-requirements).

**Concurrent Degree Program**

**BS/MS in Computer Science**

The Master of Science degree in computer science is also available to undergraduate computer science majors. For more information, visit the CSEN BS/MS Program Requirements [webpage](http://www.colorado.edu/cs/current-students/undergraduate-students/concurrent-bsms).

**Requirements**

Students must complete an approved program of study consisting of at least 30 credit hours at the 5000 level or above, at least 24 of which (including the four required breadth courses) must be completed in computer science.

Up to 6 credit hours (two courses) may be taken outside of the department with the approval of the graduate committee.

All students must earn at least a B (not a B-) or better in their breadth courses. They need to earn at least a C or better in the remaining courses, as long as their cumulative GPA is 3.0 or better.

**Breadth Courses**

Students must complete one course each in four of the nine different breadth areas: artificial intelligence, computational biology, human-centered computing, numerical & scientific computing, programming languages, software engineering, database systems, systems & networking and theory of computing.

For a list of breadth courses by category, visit the department’s MS/ME Breadth Requirement [webpage](http://www.colorado.edu/cs/current-students/graduate-students/msme-breadth-requirement).

**Degree Plans**

**Plan I: Thesis Option**

The MS thesis option curriculum is designed to provide a balance between modern technological focus and disciplinary depth. Students must secure a thesis advisor for research and course guidance.

Under this option, students have to complete 24 credit hours of course work and six thesis credit hours. In addition to this, students have to make sure to fulfill other MS degree requirements as stated by the department.

**Plan II: Non-Thesis Option**

Under this option, students have to complete 30 credit hours of course work. In addition to this, students have to make sure to fulfill other MS degree requirements as stated by the department.