Georgia Tech | College of Computing

Master of Science in Computer Science Application Options

ABOUT THE MSCS PROGRAM

The MSCS program is a program that is designed to prepare students for more highly productive careers in the industry. The program is designed for students who possess a bachelor's degree in computer science from an accredited institution. Students with a bachelor's degree in something other than Computer Science are encouraged to apply as well, with the understanding that they may be required to complete remedial course work in addition to the requirements of the M.S. CS degree.

There are two application options to apply to the MSCS program. Regardless of the application option you qualify to apply for, both application options are for the same MSCS degree program.

OPTION 1: BS/MS

Description:
Each year, a limited number of highly-qualified students can enroll in our joint BS/MS in Computer Science program, where students have the potential to earn both degrees in as little as 5 years.
The BS/MS program is an application process for current BSCS majors with junior/senior standing who would like to continue their educational studies by pursuing a MSCS degree.

Eligibility Requirements:
- The applicant must be a current BSCS major who has completed at least 60 credit hours.
- The applicant must have an overall GPA of 3.4 (or higher).
- Letter(s) of recommendation:
  - Applicants must submit TWO letters of recommendation (requested within the on-line application). One from a Georgia Tech College of Computing faculty member, which attests to the applicant's potential to do graduate work. Your letter of recommendation can be from anyone listed on the CoC faculty directory: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/people/faculty, and one letter from a GT faculty member.
- Applicants do **NOT** need to submit GRE scores, if they meet the requirements stated above.
- The applicant must complete a personal statement of purpose as part of the online application.
- Once the applicant graduates with their BSCS degree, the applicant must continue with the MSCS degree the semester following their BSCS graduation, with the exception of the summer semester.
  - Students who graduate in fall must continue with the MSCS program in spring.
  - Students who graduate in spring must continue with the MSCS program in fall. Students can opt to take summer courses, but they are not required to. Please keep in mind that there are fewer courses offered during the summer and the schedule of courses for summer and fall semesters are not available until sometime in February/March.

Application Deadline:
- Applications are due on the withdrawal deadline of the semester before the student wishes to take their first graduate course as an undergraduate student.
  - Applications for spring are due by the withdrawal deadline of the fall semester.
  - Applications for fall are due by the withdrawal deadline of the spring semester.
- To Apply**:** https://gradapp.gatech.edu/apply/
  - Select the term you plan to begin the MSCS program.
  - Select "**Computer Science-On Campus**" for Program and "**BS/MS**" for Degree Level.

BS/MS Program Requirements:
- Students may complete up to 2 double-counting graduate level courses by the time they complete their BSCS degree requirements.
- Decisions about admission to the MSCS program under these terms are at the sole discretion of the MSCS admissions committee. Applicants who apply through this program but are not admitted may request that their application be evaluated with the pool of "standard" applicants, pending receipt of additional application materials (letters of recommendation, GRE scores, etc.).
- The student must meet all existing MSCS degree requirements (exp. a minimum 3.0 GPA to graduate with an MSCS degree).

OPTION 2: MSCS

Description:

The MSCS application option is for anyone who does not qualify to apply for the BS/MS application and would like to continue their educational studies by pursuing a MSCS degree.

Eligibility Requirements:
- Complete the online Georgia Tech application for admission to graduate school and pay the application fee.
  - Apply here: http://www.grad.gatech.edu/apply-now
- The applicant must have earned an accredited Bachelor's degree.
- The desirable minimum GPA is 3.0/4.0.
- The receipt of three recommendation letters (requested within the on-line application).
- Scores from the general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) are required.
  - Applicant scores are expected to be at least 153 in the Verbal, 155 in the Quantitative, and 3.0 in the Analytical sections for the MS program.
- The applicant must complete a personal statement of purpose as part of the online application.
- The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is required for candidates from non-English speaking countries who have not studied in the U.S. for at least one year. The minimum accepted score is 100 for the internet-based TOEFL exam.
- We will also accept IELTS. A minimum overall score of 7.5 is required, with minimum section scores as follows: Reading 6.5, Listening 6.5, Speaking 6.5, Writing 5.5.

Application Deadline:
- Students are admitted to the MSCS (Atlanta campus) program only once a year. MSCS admissions applications are due every February 1st for fall admittance (no summer, or spring admissions).
  - Please visit these links for program information and requirements: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/academics/degree-programs/masters/computer-science/admissionreqs & Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/faq

BS/MS vs. MSCS

	BS/MS OPTION	MSCS OPTION
Who Is Eligible to Apply	GT BSCS Students *Refer to the requirements in section above	Anyone *Refer to the requirements in section above
Application Fee	NO	YES
Application Deadline	Withdrawal deadline prior to the semester when you will start taking graduate courses	February 1st
GPA Requirement	Overall 3.4 (or higher)	3.0/4.0 (most desirable)
Admission Requirements	Completed a minimum of 60 credit hours	An accredited Bachelor's degree
Letters of Recommendation	YES (see page 1)	YES (3 Letters Required)
GRE Scores	NO	YES
Statement of Purpose	YES	YES
TOEFL or IELTS Scores	NO	YES
Matriculation Terms	Fall or Spring	Fall Only
Estimated Completion Time	May complete within 1 year after graduating with BSCS degree	2 years/24 months
Required To Complete Graduate Level Courses during Undergrad	NO *Students may complete up to 6 credit hours	NO
Eligible To DOUBLE COUNT 6 Credit Hours of Graduate Coursework	Yes, if overall GPA is at least a 3.4 upon BSCS graduation **and** student graduates with MSCS degree within 2 years of graduating with their BSCS degree.	Yes, if student meets the graduate course option requirements (see section E, #1bi): http://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/9/
Eligible To Count 6 Credit Hours of 4000 Level Coursework and/or Subject Code Other Than CS/CSE	Yes, if the course(s) was/were NOT used towards your undergraduate degree(s).	Yes, if the course(s) was/were NOT used towards your undergraduate degree(s).

> **The MAXIMUM number of credit hours that a student can use towards their MSCS degree from their Ga Tech undergrad is 12 credit hours. Of the 12 credit hours, the maximum number of hours that can be double counted towards an undergraduate degree and MSCS degree is 6 credit hours.**

FAQ's

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

Question: When should I apply for the BS/MS option?
Answer: Students should apply for the BS/MS option prior to the semester in which they plan to take their first graduate level course as an undergraduate student. For example, an undergraduate student who plans to take their first graduate course in Fall 2023, should apply for the program by the withdrawal deadline of Spring 2023.

Question: What do I select for the "application type (academic year)"?
Answer: You should select the academic year you plan to begin the MSCS program (the semester after you graduate from the BSCS degree). For example, if you plan to graduate from the BSCS program in Spring 2023 and start the MSCS program in Fall 2023 you would be selecting the "Fall 2023 – Summer 2024" application and then select "BSMS."

Question: What if I meet the overall 3.4 GPA requirement at the time I apply to the BS/MS program, but when I graduate with my BSCS degree I do not have the minimum overall 3.4 GPA?
Answer: Your final admission to the graduate program is contingent upon completion of your BSCS degree with a GPA of 3.4 or higher. Students participating in this program will be eligible to count up to six graduate level semester credit hours toward both their Bachelor's and Master's degrees. To maintain your eligibility in this program, you must maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.4 for the remainder of your undergraduate studies. If this condition is not met, you will not be allowed to double count two courses toward both your undergraduate and graduate degrees.

Question: What if I do not meet the overall 3.4 GPA requirement to apply for the BS/MS option?
Answer: If you do not meet the overall 3.4 GPA requirement, you can apply using the MSCS application option.

Question: The BS/MS program requires an applicant to have completed 60 credit hours. Do transfer credit hours count towards the 60 credit hours?
Answer: Yes, transfer credit hours count towards the required 60 completed credit hours.

Question: If I apply for the BS/MS program and I am accepted, do I have to commit to completing my MSCS degree?
Answer: No, you can decide not to continue with your MSCS after earning your BSCS degree.

Question: If I apply for the BS/MS program and I am accepted, do I have to start the MSCS program the semester following my BSCS graduation (with the exception of the summer semester)?
Answer: Yes. BS/MS students who graduate with their BSCS degree in the fall **must** continue with the MSCS program in the spring. BS/MS students who graduate with their BSCS degree in the spring **must** continue with the MSCS program in summer or fall.

Question: If I apply for the BS/MS program and I am accepted, but I am unable to start the MSCS program the semester following my BSCS graduation (with the exception of the summer semester), what are my options?
Answer: If you are unable to start the MSCS program the semester following your BSCS graduation (with the exception of the summer semester), you are welcome to reapply to the MSCS program using the regular application. Please note that you will have to pay an application fee, submit GRE scores and submit 3 letters of recommendation. Also, the MSCS regular application only admits for the fall semester (no spring or summer admissions) and the deadline to apply is February 1st.

Question: If I do not get accepted for the BS/MS program, can I still apply using the MSCS option?
Answer: Yes. However, the MSCS application option only admits for the fall semesters and applications are due by February 1.

Question: I missed the application deadline; can I submit a late application?
Answer: No. If an applicant missed the deadline, their application would be reviewed for the next semester's application cycle (eligibility would be reviewed during that next cycle).

Question: If I submit my application before the deadline will it be reviewed sooner?
Answer: No. Applications are **NOT** reviewed on a rolling basis.

Question: Can I submit more letters of recommendation than what is required on my application (BS/MS or MSCS)?
Answer: Yes, however, additional letters of recommendation may not make an application stronger. There is space to provide up to 3 letters of recommendation on your application. If you would like to submit more than 3 letters of recommendation the recommender(s) can mail their letter to the Georgia Tech Graduate Studies office. Please view this link for their address and instructions http://www.grad.gatech.edu/helpdesk/knowledgebase.php?article=73.

Question: How can I confirm if someone is a CoC faculty member?
Answer The BS/MS application requires a letter of recommendation from a CoC faculty member. To verify CoC faculty members, please refer to the CoC faculty directory: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/people/faculty

Question: Who should I contact if I have questions about what documents I need to send?
Answer: Please visit the supporting documents page of Graduate Studies website: https://grad.gatech.edu/supporting-documents. The Graduate Studies Office sets all the requirements for the necessary documents. These materials are received and processed by Graduate Studies. Questions about documents listed in your application checklist should be directed to Grad Studies. If you have any questions throughout the application process, please refer to Georgia Tech Graduate Studies Admissions frequently asked questions (FAQ): https: https://grad.gatech.edu/faq/knowledgebase.php?category=2. If your question is not answered there, please send an e-mail to Grad Studies.

Question: Once I have submitted my application, is it possible to make changes and/or update/edit it at a later date?
Answer: Please refer to the Graduate Studies FAQ: https://grad.gatech.edu/faq/knowledgebase.php?article=20 . As a reminder, if you have any questions throughout the application process, please refer to Georgia Tech Graduate Studies Admissions frequently asked questions (FAQ): https://grad.gatech.edu/faq/knowledgebase.php?category=2. If your question is not answered there, please send an e-mail to Grad Studies.

Question: If I am still enrolled in a program and do not have a degree to upload, what should I do?
Answer: Please refer to the Graduate Studies FAQ: https://grad.gatech.edu/faq/knowledgebase.php?article=11 As a reminder, if you have any questions throughout the application process, please refer to Georgia Tech Graduate Studies Admissions frequently asked questions (FAQ): https://grad.gatech.edu/faq/knowledgebase.php?category=2. If your question is not answered there, please send an e-mail to Grad Studies.

Question: Can I apply to the MSCS program if I do not meet the GPA, GRE or TOEFL requirements?
Answer: If a prospective student does not meet the requirements to apply for the BS/MS option, they may apply using the MSCS application option. While we cannot predict the chances that someone will be accepted, interested candidates are encouraged to apply. Applications are reviewed holistically in order to determine an applicant's suitability. The admissions committee considers several factors when making admission decisions; academic performance at prior institutions (GPA), experience, background, GRE test scores, statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation.

Question: When will I receive a decision regarding my BS/MS or MSCS application?
Answer: Please note that the MSCS advisors do not partake in the admission decisions. As a result, we cannot predict when an applicant will receive a decision. Decisions are NOT made on a rolling basis. We understand that you may be eager to receive a decision. However, your continued patience is requested during this time until decisions are released. If an applicant has questions about their application (including the status) there is information on our FAQ website (https://www.cc.gatech.edu/faq) as well as the Graduate Studies website (http://www.grad.gatech.edu/supporting-documents and https://grad.gatech.edu/faq/knowledgebase.php?category=2 that are designed to help applicants with various questions throughout the application cycle.

Question: If I am applying to the MSCS program, what is the deadline to submit a letter of recommendation and/or test scores?
Answer: We allow applicants an additional two weeks to submit these items after the deadline.

REGISTRATION QUESTIONS:
Question: Can I take both graduate courses in the same semester?
Answer: Yes.

Question: Do the graduate level courses have to be taken in the same semester or different semesters?
Answer: The graduate level courses can be taken in the same semester or different semesters.

Question: Who should I talk to about which graduate courses to take to count for the BS/MS program?
Answer: Prospective BSMS students should consult with their BSCS advisor. Students who have been accepted to the BSMS program should consult with their BSMS advisor.

Question: Which graduate level courses will double count for my BS/MS degree?
Answer: The BSCS and BSMS academic advisors have a chart to identify the graduate level courses that will count for the BS/MS degree. Students should reach out to their current advisor for more information.

Question: What constitutes a graduate level course?
Answer: Graduate level courses are 6000-8000 level courses.

Question: I am a BS/MS student and have not graduated with my BSCS degree, how do I register for a graduate level course?
Answer: Accepted BSMS students should contact the BSMS advisor with their registration questions.

Question: I am a BS/MS student who is graduating with a BSCS degree at the end of the semester, when will I register?
Answer: Once a BS/MS student graduates with their BSCS degree, their first semester in the MSCS program, they are considered a *"new student"*. Therefore, they will register during Phase II. New MSCS students will receive registration information prior to Phase II. Our *"regdates"* webpage will also be updated with registration information: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/student-registration-dates-information-graduate.

Question: I was accepted into the BS/MS program and I would like to complete the MSCS project or thesis option. How can I enroll in a thesis or project course?
Answer: Undergraduate students cannot register for MSCS thesis or project options until they have graduated with their BSCS degree and matriculate into the MSCS program.

Question: I am interested in taking an online graduate course, is this possible?
Answer: No. Students cannot mix campuses. Meaning, Atlanta campus students cannot take online courses and online students cannot take Atlanta campus courses.

MSCS PROGRAM QUESTIONS:
Question: How long do I have to complete the MSCS program?
Answer: The MSCS degree is typically completed within 2 years. BS/MS students have the potential to complete the MSCS degree within 1 year of graduating with their BSCS degree, but this is not required. If a BS/MS student plans to double count courses towards their BS/MS degrees, they must complete the MSCS degree within 2 years of graduating with their BSCS degree.

Question: Can I take more than 2 graduate level courses as an undergraduate student?
Answer: It may be possible to take additional graduate level courses. However, in order for the additional graduate level courses to possibly count towards your MS degree they cannot be used towards your BSCS degree and they must appear in the Fallthrough section of Degree Works for your BSCS degree. Please note, that the maximum number of credit hours a student can use from their Georgia Tech undergrad is TWELVE/12 credit hours and only 6 graduate level credit hours can be double counted.

Question: Can I double count 4000 level courses towards my undergraduate degree and the MSCS degree?
Answer: No. In order for a 4000-level course to potentially be eligible to be used towards the MSCS degree, it cannot have been used towards your undergraduate degree. Therefore, it will need to be in the Fallthrough section of your undergraduate degree(s) Degree Works.

Question: I took an undergraduate level course that is cross-listed/equivalent with a graduate level course. Can I take the graduate cross-listed/equivalent course?
Answer: If you took an undergraduate course that is cross-listed/equivalent with a graduate level course, you **CANNOT** take the graduate level cross-listed/equivalent course and use it towards the MSCS degree requirements (vice versa). Please refer to the CoC course equivalency chart: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/equivalent-courses. This chart is for CoC courses only. It is possible for non-CoC courses to have a cross-listed/equivalent course(s) and it is the student's responsibility to verify this information. This can be done by viewing the cross-listed information **and** the *"view catalog entry"* information that is listed in OSCAR for each course.

Question: The MSCS specialization that I am interested in declaring requires that I take a graduate level course, but it is cross-listed/equivalent with an undergraduate level course that I completed. Can I take the graduate level course?
Answer: If you took an undergraduate course that is cross-listed with a graduate level course, you **CANNOT** take the graduate level cross-listed course and use it towards the MSCS degree requirements (vice versa). Please refer to the CoC course equivalency chart: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/equivalent-courses Once a student has matriculated into the MSCS program, they will need to work with their advisor on how to proceed in this situation.

Question: I am an undergraduate student trying to plan which MSCS courses to take. Can you tell me if a specific course will be offered in an upcoming semester?
Answer: No. The MSCS advisors do not manage the schedule of courses. As a result, we do not have knowledge of, nor can we predict the chances of a specific course being offered in a specific semester. Students will need to refer to the schedule of courses once it is posted.

Question: How many credit hours is the MSCS program?
Answer: The MSCS program is 30 credit hours.

Question: Where can I find more information about the MSCS degree requirements?
Answer: Please visit the MSCS website: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/degree-programs/master-science-computer-science

Question: Where can I find additional information about the MSCS specialization requirements?
Answer: MSCS core and elective requirements will vary depending on the specialization a student chooses. Please refer to this webpage (https://www.cc.gatech.edu/ms-computer-science-specializations) for the various specialization requirements. Current GT BSCS students can also run a what-if scenario in Degree Works to view MSCS degree requirements.

Question: Can I meet with an MSCS advisor to plan out my MSCS program requirements?
Answer: While we understand that you are eager to try and plan/map out the MSCS program requirements, please understand that things are subject to change from one semester and year to the next. A student's degree requirements are determined by the catalog year that they matriculate into the MSCS program. Accepted BSMS students can ask questions about the current MSCS curriculum to their BSMS advisor.

Question: Do MSCS students have to declare a specialization?
Answer: Yes.

Question: Can MSCS students declare two or more specializations?
Answer: No. MSCS students are only able to officially declare one specialization.

Question: When can I declare my MSCS specialization?
Answer: Students must matriculate into the MSCS program first. Once a student has matriculated into the MSCS program, they can declare their specialization at any time, as long as it is outside of any registration period.

Question: I was accepted to the MSCS program (via the BS/MS application or the MSCS application), will I receive any additional communication about the program?
Answer: Yes. The MSCS advisors will send new students information about the MSCS program via email. This information is typically sent a few weeks before a new student is set to matriculate in the MSCS program.

Question: I was admitted to the BS/MS program, but I have not graduated with my BSCS degree. When can I start the MSCS project or thesis option?
Answer: BS/MS students cannot register for MSCS thesis or project options until they have graduated with their BSCS degree. Therefore, the earliest a BS/MS student can begin the MSCS project or thesis option is the semester following their BSCS graduation.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS:
Question: Is there an FAQ page I can refer to if I have more questions?
Answer: Yes. Here is the webpage: https://www.cc.gatech.edu/faq

Question: I was accepted to the BS/MS program but would like to switch to the OMSCS program, what is the procedure?
Answer: You need to apply for admission to the OMSCS program by their posted deadlines.

Question: Can a 4000-level course previously taken (that was cross-listed with a 6000/8000 level course) be retroactively changed to double count?
Answer: NO. Therefore, it is important to get permits and register for the graduate sections of courses.

*****The policies and information within this document are subject to change if new or more information becomes available*****