

**Computer Science**  
**MCS Graduate Handbook**  
**Non-Thesis**  
**including concentrations in**  
**a) Big Data Systems and**  
**b) Cybersecurity**

**2021 - 2022**

**MANUAL OF THE MASTER OF COMPUTER SCIENCE DEGREE  
AND  
CONCENTRATIONS**

**ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**2021- 2022**

CSE graduate degrees please contact:

Office of Graduate Programs  
Of Computer Science  
Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering  
Arizona State University  
PO Box 878809  
Tempe, AZ 85287-8809  
Tempe Campus Phone: (480) 965-3199  
Online Campus Phone: (480) 727-3520

CSE on the web: <https://scai.engineering.asu.edu/graduate-computer-science/>  
MCS Online website: <https://asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/computer-science-mcs/>

Tempe Campus E-mail address: [cidse.advising@asu.edu](mailto:cidse.advising@asu.edu)  
Online Campus Email address: [mcsonline@asu.edu](mailto:mcsonline@asu.edu)

*Revised updated August 24, 2021*

## Table of Contents

I. Introduction to the Computer Science Program .....	1
II. Objective of the handbook.....	2
III. Student responsibility .....	2
IV. Wellness Resources.....	2
V. Faculty responsibility.....	2
VI. Admission and eligibility to the MCS degree programs .....	2
Eligibility.....	3
Application .....	3
Application deadlines .....	3
English Proficiency.....	3
Personal statement or curriculum vitae.....	3
GPA requirement.....	4
Application evaluation.....	4
Deficiencies.....	4
Notice of Admission.....	5
Pre-admission credits and Transfer Credit.....	5
Transfer between programs.....	5
VII. MCS Degree Requirements.....	6
a. Formulation of the Plan of Study .....	6
VIII. General Information, Policies and Procedures .....	9
a. Financial assistance and/or fellowships.....	9
b. Continuous Enrollment.....	9
c. Leave of Absence Policies.....	10
d. Maximum Time Limit.....	10
e. Registration requirements for research assistants (RA) and teaching assistants (TA).....	10
f. Policy for Maintaining Academic Satisfactory Progress .....	11
g. Filing for Graduation .....	12
h. Academic Integrity .....	12
i. CSE 584 Internship Curricular Practical Training (CPT).....	13
j. Engineering Student Organizations.....	14
k. Instructional Concerns and Course-Related Complaints .....	14

## **I. Introduction to the Computer Science Program**

The Master of Computer Science (MCS) is a non-thesis degree available for the ground and online campuses. The program is ideal for students with undergraduate education in computer science or related studies. This degree features advanced course work and provides numerous opportunities for interdisciplinary study. Students have the option to pursue their studies in the following concentrations:

- Big Data Systems (BDS) and
- Cybersecurity (CS)

Here at ASU's School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence (SCAI), formerly the School of Computing, Informatics, and Decision Systems Engineering (CIDSE), we envision a society where secure, accurate, and current information is ubiquitously available and data is seamlessly collected, managed, and converted into information that entertains individuals, empowers businesses, and guides the decisions of both in their daily affairs.

We envision our school as a community recognized by its colleagues internationally as a leader in envisioning and enabling the information-driven society and by students as a preferred location for acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to this vision.

We envision a community of scholars cooperatively engaged in transdisciplinary research addressing the grand challenges of modern society and supporting the intellectual growth of students and colleagues.

Our mission is to benefit society through excellence in education, use-inspired research from basic to translational, and leadership in service to the profession and community. We seek to provide a supportive environment that promotes creativity, diversity, multidisciplinary teaming, scholarship, and ethical behavior in order to advance knowledge and practice in computing, information and decision technologies to enhance society.

ASU prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. To view ASU's policy please see <https://www.asu.edu/aad/manuals/acd/acd401.html>.

Title IX protects individuals from discrimination based on sex in any educational program or activity operated by recipients of federal financial assistance. As required by Title IX, ASU does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education programs or activities that we operate, including in admission and employment. Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or to the U.S. Department of Education, Assistant Secretary, or both. Contact [titleixcoordinator@asu.edu](mailto:titleixcoordinator@asu.edu) or 480-965-0696 for more information. Office located at 1120 S. Cady Mall, INTDSB 284. For information on making a report please go to [www.asu.edu/reportit/](http://www.asu.edu/reportit/).

## II. Objective of the handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide guidance and information related to admission, degree requirements, and general policies and procedures. Please note that in some cases, you will find differences between the Graduate College policies and procedures and the computer science program requirements. In these cases, CSE has established higher standards. Students must satisfy both sets of requirements. Please note that policies and procedures are occasionally amended to improve the program. Changes will be communicated to students through e-mail, which is our primary form of communication. We will also post any updates to this handbook on our website [scai.engineering.asu.edu](http://scai.engineering.asu.edu).

## III. Student responsibility

All students are expected to become familiar with university and program policies and procedures and abide by the terms set forth. Information is available online at the following websites:

- Graduate College – <http://graduate.asu.edu>
- Graduate College policies and procedures <https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures>
- The Computer Science Program – <https://scai.engineering.asu.edu/graduate-computer-science/>
- The International Students and Scholars Center – <https://issc.asu.edu/>, if applicable.
- The Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering – <http://engineering.asu.edu>

## IV. Wellness Resources

We believe graduate education provides an opportunity to grow in our knowledge and expertise, and during our studies, we may face challenges and hardships that can affect our wellbeing. The Graduate College and the ASU Graduate Student Association have put together resources and best practices guides to help your educational journey. Should you need additional guidance and support, we encourage you to contact a graduate advisor at the SCAI Graduate Advising Office.

- “[Graduate Wellness Resources](#)” – a one-page guide to Financial, Social, Emotional, and Physical Health and Wellness Resources for ASU Graduate Students, developed by the GPSA
- “[10 Best Practices in Graduate Student Wellbeing](#)” – proven ways to help graduate students better care for themselves under the increasing demands of graduate school

## V. Faculty responsibility

The members of the faculty of computer science have diverse backgrounds and knowledge. They are available to assist you in your plan of study and your educational and career goals. We encourage you to take the opportunity to make individual appointments with faculty members with whom you have common interests. Please refer to the list of the faculty names, areas of expertise, and research interest on [SCAI Website](#).

## VI. Admission and eligibility to the MCS degree programs

The Master of Computer Science (MCS) degree requires a background in engineering, math, sciences, or closely related fields. However, in some cases, students with non-traditional educational backgrounds will be considered for admission. These students may be required to take foundational courses to better prepare for the graduate coursework. A student is encouraged

to contact a graduate advisor in the School of Computing, Informatics, and Decision Systems Engineering Advising Center to obtain advice on their educational pursuits.

**Eligibility** - Before applying to the MCS program, students are required to have completed two semesters or 6 credit hours of calculus. Additionally, applicants will not be admitted if they have more than 2 deficiencies as identified under the "Deficiencies" and "Deficiency Test-Out Exam" sections below.

**Application** - All students are required to submit an application and all required supporting materials with the Office of Graduate Admission and pay the required fee to have their application properly processed.

#### **Application deadlines –**

To receive full consideration, we ask that you have all the required documents submitted by the deadline.

	Fall	Spring	Summer
On-Campus	December 1	August 1	N/A
Online A/C session	July 22 International July 8	December 13 International Nov 29	April 18 International April 4
Online B session	September 15 International Sept 1	February 14 International Jan 31	N/A

**GRE scores** –GRE scores (optional, but strongly recommended for Tempe campus applicants for consideration to multiple programs within the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering)

The average GRE scores for students admitted into the MCS program have been verbal 153 or 63rd percentile, quantitative 163 or 88th percentile, and analytical 4.0. However, admission decisions are made based on the entire application packet. We do not require specific subject GRE scores. The ASU institution code is 4007. If department code is required, use 000 for GRE.

**English Proficiency** - The University requires all international applicants from a country whose native language is not English to provide the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IETLS) scores. CSE uses an average scores 575 (paper-based) or 90 (internet-based) for TOEFL or 7 for IETLS or 65 for Pearson or 115 for Duolingo for admission. Note that your application will not be processed until the university receives official TOEFL scores, which are valid two years from the start date of the degree program. There are some exceptions for students who have been living in the United States and would like to have the TOEFL waived. They should consult the [English Proficiency website](#). Please address all TOEFL questions to the Office of Graduate Admission. The ASU institution code is 4007. If department code is required, use 99 for TOEFL.

**Personal statement or curriculum vitae** - The application must include a personal statement or a curriculum vitae. The statement should explain professional goals and reasons for desiring to enroll in the MCS program. A curriculum vitae should highlight the applicant's accomplishments include job history, certificates, professional affiliations, and relevant extracurricular activities.

**GPA requirement** - To be considered for the MCS program, we require a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 credit hours of the undergraduate degree (3.25 GPA strongly recommended for Tempe campus applicants).

**Application evaluation** - Several factors are taken into consideration when evaluating a student's application: the student's cumulative GPA, major, institution, GRE scores (Tempe campus), personal statement, (Tempe and for online if submitted), and performance in individual courses.

**Deficiencies** - Depending on an applicant's prior academic preparation and accomplishments, deficiency courses may be assigned to ensure adequate background preparation.

Below is a list of prerequisite courses, along with the associated ASU course numbers:

- CSE 230 - Computer Organization and Assembly Language Programming
- CSE 310 - Data Structures and Algorithms **or** SER 222 Design and Analysis of Data Structures and Algorithms (for online students)
- CSE 330 - Operating Systems **or** SER 334 Operating Systems and Systems Programming (for online students)
- CSE 340 - Principles of Programming Languages **or**  
CSE 355 - Introduction to Theoretical Computer Science

Deficiency coursework completed with a grade of "C" or better at the undergraduate level will satisfy the requirements. A grade of "B" or better is required for all deficiency coursework at the post-baccalaureate level.

Students have three options to meet the assigned deficiency: Waiver process, Test-out exam, or enrolling in the course.

**Option 1: Waiver Process:** Students wishing to have their course syllabi examined as evidence that deficiencies have been satisfied must submit a petition. The request will need to be submitted using the [Petition for Reevaluation of Deficiency Course](#) form along with supporting documents such as a syllabus, catalog description, and university transcripts (including the grade scale), to prove that you have met the requirements. Be advised that the documents you uploaded during the admission application have been evaluated, so a reevaluation petition should only be submitted if you have **new** information to provide. Once the petition has been reviewed, it is final. There will be no future petition or consideration request. If, after evaluation, the petition is not approved, the student may choose to take the deficiency test-out examination.

**Option 2: Deficiency test-out exam** - Prior to fall and spring semesters, an online course proficiency examination (CPE) is provided to allow students entering with deficiencies (listed in the admission letter) to take a test to establish whether they possess basic knowledge of the course material sufficient to have an assigned deficiency waived. The cost for each subject examination is \$59, payable at the time of registration. Students have a maximum of two attempts for each subject. **This scheduled testing period is the**

**only opportunity for deficiency test-outs. No other arrangements will be made for students to test out of assigned deficiencies.**

**Option 3:** Enrolling in the course. Students who could not clear their assigned deficiency through the waiver process or deficiency test-out exam are required to enroll and pass the course(s) in their first year. A student has a total of two attempts to clear the deficiency. Students assigned CSE 340 have the option of enrolling CSE 340 or CSE 355. For CSE 340/355 two attempts are combined and not a total of four attempts – CSE 340 (twice) and CSE 355 (twice).

**Notice of Admission** - CSE submits its recommendation to the Office of Graduate Admission, who will then send the final notice of admission to the applicant in writing via email. You may check your application status on My ASU (my.asu.edu).

### **Pre-admission credits and Transfer Credit**

The CSE Program allows a student to transfer a maximum of six (6) credit hours of graduate coursework from another accredited institution. The graduate-level credit hours course must have grades of “B” or better and were not used toward a previous degree, per Graduate College policy. Pre-admission credits must have been taken within three years of admission to the ASU degree program to be accepted. A course with a grade of “Pass”, “Credit”, or “Satisfactory” is not acceptable for transfer. A student who wishes to transfer credits from another institution should contact a graduate advisor in the SCAI Advising Center to initiate the transfer credit process. Acceptance of transfer credit is at the discretion of the CSE Program. See the Pre-Admission Credit section of the [Graduate College Policies and Procedures Manual](#) for more details.

### **Transfer between programs**

A student who would like to change from a Ph.D. to a Master’s or change from a Master’s to a Master’s degree programs within Computer Science should follow the Computer Science Degree Change process. With approval, twelve credit hours are eligible for transfer into the Master’s program with grades of “B” or better within the last three years. Likewise, an MCS online student who would like to switch to the MS Tempe campus must meet all the admission requirements and, with approval, may transfer twelve credit hours with grades of “B” or better on courses taken within the last three years.

**Note:** Online students changing from online campus to a ground campus program will be required to submit a new application for admission. Students changing from the MCS Tempe campus to MCS Online should consult with Academic Advisor before submitting a request.

Students who want to change from a Master’s to a Ph.D. in Computer Science must submit a new application to ASU Graduate Admissions. Admission to the Ph.D. program is not guaranteed. If admitted, the student is allowed to transfer only 12 credits of courses taken within the last three years with grades of “B” or better from the original uncompleted master’s program to the new program.

## VII. MCS Degree Requirements

Degree requirements for the MCS include a minimum of 30 semester hours, not including deficiency courses and CSE 584 – CPT credits

The MCS is comprised of three major milestones, which all students are required to complete successfully before graduation:

- a) Completion of coursework,
- b) Filing an approved plan of study
- c) Successful completing a project portfolio

Assigned deficiency courses must be completed by the end of the first academic year of their matriculation term. A grade of “B” or better is required for deficiency courses, and a “B” must be achieved in each course. A grade of “B” or better in a course that follows a prerequisite class does not waive this requirement.

**An accelerated computer science degree (4+1) program** BS-BSE/MS program is available for ASU undergraduate computer science and computer systems engineering students. There are also concentrations available in Cybersecurity and Big Data Systems. The accelerated program allows a maximum of 9 credit hours to be shared with both their undergraduate and graduate programs and 3 credit hours reserved in the undergrad to be applied for the graduate program between the undergraduate and graduate programs. Students interested in the MCS Online program should consult with their Academic Advisor.

**Satisfactory Progress as an incoming Graduate Student:** All 4+1 students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher (Cumulative, Graduate and IPOS). If a student falls below a 3.0 GPA, they are placed on probation and provided the timeframe in which the GPA must be raised to the satisfactory level. Students who do not raise their GPA to a 3.0 within the provided timeline risk dismissal from the program. Please Note: any 500 level courses taken as an undergraduate student will immediately count towards your satisfactory progress GPA calculation once you become a graduate student.

### a. Formulation of the Plan of Study

A student needs to submit a plan of study (iPOS) through MyASU before the end of their first semester of attendance. The final iPOS is subject to approval by the Graduate Program Chair. After approval at the School level, the final iPOS is forwarded to the Graduate College for final approval.

The iPOS must contain a minimum of 30 semester hours of approved graduate-level work. At least 24 of these hours must be CSE-5XX credits at ASU. A maximum of 6 credit hours of 400-level coursework may be allowed on the iPOS per Graduate College guidelines. All 30 semester hours must be from formal course work (including CSE 591 and 598). CSE 590 will not be allowed as part of the MCS program. Students need to be mindful of course antirequisites at the time of registration. Specifically, students may not take both CSE 450/551 or CSE 511/512 or IEE 520 and CSE 572 due to significant overlap between the courses.

In addition to meeting the requirements specified above, all MCS students must complete a project portfolio from two courses in which the student received a "B" (3.00) grade or higher.

All MCS students must take and pass at least three credit hours in each of the three core courses: Foundations, Systems, and Applications and **earn a grade of B or better** in all area courses. Transfer credit cannot count towards meeting the core area requirement unless the credit was earned at ASU (course lists available at: <https://scai.engineering.asu.edu/graduate-computer-science/> ).

**Approved 400 and 4XX/5XX level:** A maximum of 6 credit hours of 400-level coursework is allowed. A maximum of 12 hours of a combination of 400-level and cross-listed courses (4XX/5XX) is allowed. If a 400-level course is cross-listed with a 500-level course, students will be required to enroll in the 500-level. Non-CSE pre-fix courses outside the unit require the Program Chair's approval before enrolling it to count towards the degree requirement (course lists available at: <https://scai.engineering.asu.edu/graduate-computer-science/> ).

### **MCS in Computer Science** (*available online and on-campus*)

The program requires the following: 30 credit hours and a portfolio.

*Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours (a grade of B or better is required in each core course)*

- Foundations (3)
- Systems (3)
- Applications (3)

*Elective Courses: 21 credit hours*

Students choose 21 credit hours of other elective coursework approved in their plan of study. Coursework selected as part of the core may not be used as elective coursework on the same study plan.

Culminating Experience: Project Portfolio, 0 credit hours

### **MCS in Computer Science (Cybersecurity)** (*available online and on-campus*)

The program requires the following: 30 credit hours and a portfolio.

*Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours (a grade of B or better is required in each core course)*

- Foundations (3)
- Systems (3)
- Applications (3)

*Required Concentration Courses\*: 9 credit hours of coursework in Cybersecurity.*

3 credit hours from:

- CSE 543 Information Assurance and Security (3)

*And 6 credit hours from two the following courses:*

- CSE 539 Applied Cryptography (3)
- CSE 545 Software Security (3)

- CSE 548 Advanced Computer Network Security (3)

*Electives: 12*

\*If a student selects any of the concentration courses that are also listed as a core course, additional coursework may be required to complete the degree. Students should check with their academic advisor to ensure that the total credit hours of their plan of study are equal to 30.

*Culminating Experience: Project Portfolio, 0 credit hours*

### **MCS in Computer Science (Big Data Systems)** *(available online and on-campus)*

The program requires the following: 30 credit hours and a portfolio.

*Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours (a grade of B or better is required in each core course)*

- Foundations (3)
- Systems (3)
- Applications (3)

*Required Concentration Courses\*: 9 credit hours*

- CSE 511 Data Processing at Scale (3)
- CSE 575 Statistical Machine Learning (3)
- CSE 578 Data Visualization (3)

*Restricted Electives: 6 credit hours from the following*

- CSE 572 Data Mining
- CSE 598 Engineering Blockchain Applications (3)

*Electives: 6\**

\* If a student selects any of the concentration courses that are also listed as a core course, additional coursework may be required to complete the degree. Students should check with their academic advisor to ensure that the total credit hours of their plan of study are equal to 30.

*Culminating Experience: Project Portfolio, 0 credit hours*

### **Project Portfolio**

All students admitted to the MCS degree program must complete a [project portfolio](#). The portfolio is a compilation of two completed projects that were finished in two MCS program courses. Students must write a portfolio report that includes the highlights of the two projects. All CSE 500-level regular courses are eligible for the portfolio if project work makes up at least 30% of the final grade. At the course instructor's discretion, this may consist of one or multiple projects, or a combination of project and self-study work. For students pursuing a concentration, one of the two projects must be from the concentration courses or the restrictive elective for the concentration. **The student must have received a final grade of “B” or better in the course to use it for their portfolio.**

## VIII. General Information, Policies and Procedures

### a. Financial assistance and/or fellowships

There are limited funds for MS thesis and PhD students. We encourage students to pursue assistantships outside of CSE, not limiting your search to CSE. Information regarding other sources of financial assistance are available on the following websites:

- Financial aid: <https://students.asu.edu/financialaid>
- Graduate College: <https://graduate.asu.edu/pay-for-college>
- Fulton: <https://graduate.engineering.asu.edu/fellowships/>

### b. Continuous Enrollment

Once admitted to a graduate degree program or graduate certificate program, students must be registered for a minimum of one credit hour during all phases of their Graduate College, including the term in which they graduate. This includes periods when students are engaged in research, working on or defending theses, or in any other way utilizing university resources, facilities, or faculty time.

Registration for every fall semester and spring semester is required. Summer registration is required for students taking examinations, completing culminating experiences, defending theses, or graduating from the degree program.

To maintain continuous enrollment, the credit hour(s) must:

- Appear on the student's Plan of Study, OR
- Be continuing registration (595, 795), OR
- Be a graduate-level course

Grades of "W" and/or "X" are not considered valid registration for continuous enrollment purposes. "W" grades are received when students officially withdraw from a course after the add/drop period. "X" grades are received for audit courses. Additionally, students completing work for a course in which they received a grade of "I" must maintain continuous enrollment as defined previously. Graduate students have one year to complete work for an incomplete grade; if the work is not completed, and the grade changed within one year, the "I" grade becomes permanent. Additional information regarding incomplete grades can be found at <http://asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm203-09.html>.

### c. Leave of Absence Policies

Graduate students planning to discontinue registration for a semester or more, must submit a Leave of Absence request via their Interactive Plan of Student (iPOS). This request must be submitted and approved **before** the anticipated semester of non-registration. Students may request a maximum of two semesters of leave during their entire program.

Having an approved Leave of Absence by the Graduate College will enable students to re-enter their program without re-applying to the university. **Students who do not register for a fall or spring semester without an approved request are considered withdrawn from the university under the assumption that they have decided to discontinue their program.** Students removed for this reason may re-apply for admission to resume their

degree program. The application will be considered along with all other new applications to the degree program.

A student with a Graduate College approved Leave of Absence is not required to pay tuition and/or fees, but in turn, are not permitted to place any demands on university faculty or use any university resources. These resources include university libraries, laboratories, recreation facilities, or faculty time.

**d. Maximum Time Limit**

Master's students must complete all program requirements within six years. The six-year period starts with the semester and year of admission to the Master's program. Graduate courses taken before admission that are included in the Plan of Study must have been completed within three years of the semester and year of admission to the program.

Any exceptions must be approved by the supervisory committee and the Graduate College Dean. The Graduate College may withdraw students who are unable to complete all degree requirements and graduate within the allowed maximum time limits.

**e. Registration requirements for research assistants (RA) and teaching assistants (TA)**

Students awarded an assistantship within the **Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering** are **required to be registered for 12 credit hours**. Audit credit hours do not count toward the 12 credit hours.

Students who obtain an assistantship outside the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering are required to be enrolled a minimum of 6 credit hours. Audit credits do not count towards the 6 credit hours. Enrollment in 1 continuing credit registration (CSE 595) does count toward the 6-hour requirement.

TAs and RAs are treated as residents for tuition purposes. To be eligible for tuition remission, TAs and RAs must be employed a minimum of 10 hours per week (25 percent Full-Time Equivalency {FTE}). TAs/RAs working 10-19 hours per week (25-49 percent FTE) receive a 50 percent remission of tuition for the semester or summer session of their employment. TAs/RAs working 20 hours per week (50 percent FTE) do not pay tuition during the semester or summer session of their employment. Also, the university pays the individual health insurance premium for those TAs and RAs working 20 hours per week (50 percent FTE). The TA/RA offer does not cover additional fees beyond tuition.

**f. Policy for Maintaining Academic Satisfactory Progress**

At the end of the student's first completed semester and every semester thereafter, the school will conduct an audit to determine if the student is maintaining the required minimum satisfactory progress, including progress on academic (GPAs and deficiencies) and probationary issues. Any student that is not in compliance with the satisfactory academic/progress requirements is notified that she/he is either

- on academic probation and is given the next 9 credit hours or two semesters (fall and spring) to bring the GPA up to the proper level or

- on continued progress probation and is required to meet the conditions outlined in the continued probation letter.

Failure to properly remediate the GPA or the conditions outlined in the letter within the time frame will result in the school recommending that the student be dismissed from the program.

**Note:** Fully admitted students who take optional summer courses are placed on probation after the summer term if the earned grade(s) causes their GPA to fall below the satisfactory progress GPA minimum.

If applicable, the above-noted audit will also review each student's progress towards removing enrollment deficiency courses and/or any other degree requirement milestone(s). Failure to satisfactorily complete all deficiency course(s) and/or required milestones by the stipulated deadline may result in a recommendation for dismissal to the Graduate College.

Each semester, the computer science program reviews students' files for satisfactory progress toward completion of the degree. All students who fall in one of the four categories are placed on probation or withdrawn from the program:

- 1) Satisfactory progress;
- 2) Academic probation;
- 3) Progress probation;
- 4) Withdrawal from the CSE program.

1. **Satisfactory progress** means that a student does not have any academic or progress probationary issues.

## 2. **Academic Probation**

A student who has been admitted to a graduate degree program in SCAI with either regular or provisional admission status must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0:

1. in all work taken for graduate credit (courses numbered 500 or higher)
2. in the coursework on the student's approved plan of study
3. in all coursework taken at ASU (overall cumulative GPA) post-baccalaureate
4. Have a grade below "B" in their deficiency course (s).

A student will be placed on academic probation if one or more of the student's GPAs listed above falls below 3.0 after all grades have been posted for the semester. Students will be notified by e-mail when placed on academic probation.

- A student will achieve good academic standing by obtaining a semester 3.0 or better in the GPAs listed above by the time the next nine graduate hours are completed. A maximum of two semesters is allowed to complete the nine hours of graduate-level coursework to raise the GPA, whichever comes first. Coursework

such as research and thesis registration that is for Z or Y grades cannot be included in these nine hours. Hence, it is strongly recommended students focus on improving their grades and meeting deficiency requirements. Students will also receive an academic probation notice/letter if one of these conditions pertains to their academics: Deficiency coursework grade is below B.

Students who chose to take graduate coursework and not enroll in deficiency courses will be subject to dismissal.

**3. Progress probation** pertains to issues dealing with making progress toward a degree. The following are notices/letters you will receive if one of these pertains to your academics:

- Lack of progress toward completing deficiencies as listed on your admission letter.
- Failure to complete the project portfolio.
- Failure to submit an iPOS by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

**4. Withdrawal from the CSE program:**

An MCS student may be removed from the program for any of the reasons listed above.

A student is recommended for withdrawal from the CSE program if she or he fails to meet the probationary standards placed upon in the semester mentioned in the probationary letter. The student will receive a letter from the computer science program explaining the reasons for the withdrawal. The student will have 5 calendar days from the date of the letter to appeal the decision. The CSE Graduate Program Committee (GPC) will review the case and will make the necessary recommendation. The graduate program chair, on behalf of the GPC, will provide a written explanation of the outcome. If the outcome is favorable, the student will have to meet all the outlined requirements at the end of the specified period. The student will be required to sign an agreement acknowledging the recommendations and the consequences if the terms of the agreement are not met. If the GPC recommends that the appeal is not granted in favor of the student, the graduate program chair, on behalf of the GPC, will recommend to the Dean's Office to withdraw the student from the CSE program. The student's appeal will be forwarded to the Ira A. Fulton Schools Standards Committee, which reviews the student's case and makes the final ruling to the Associate Dean and the CSE program. If the appeal is not granted in favor of the student, the Dean's Office of Academic and Student Affairs will recommend to the Graduate College to withdraw the student from the CSE program. Please refer to the Graduate College policies and procedures or contact the graduate advisor in the SCAI Advising Center.

**g. Filing for Graduation**

During the final semester, a student must file an application for graduation with the Graduation Office of the Registrar through MyASU. The student's approved final plan of study (iPOS) must be on file with Graduate College before the student can apply for graduation.

## **h. Academic Integrity**

The highest standards of academic integrity are expected of all graduate students, both in the academic coursework and in their related research activities. The failure of any graduate student to meet these standards may result in serious consequences, including suspension or expulsion from the university and/or other sanctions as specified in the academic integrity policies of individual schools, as well as the university.

Violations of academic integrity include but are not limited to cheating, fabrication, tampering, plagiarism, or aiding or facilitating such activities. At the graduate level, students are expected to be familiar with these issues, and each student must take personal responsibility for their work. In addition, graduate students are expected to follow university guidelines related to the Student Code of Conduct. University policies related to academic integrity and code of conduct are available in the Office of the University Provost or at <https://provost.asu.edu/academic-integrity>.

## **i. CSE 584 Internship**

Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is an academic experience usually obtained at off-campus work settings, allowing the student to apply knowledge and skills gained in various classes. It is intended as a unique, hands-on learning experience to provide students with a number of valuable skills that they can use upon graduation from their degree programs. Accordingly, it is not available to full-time or part-time workers regularly employed by the company where the internship is proposed. CPT is only available for students enrolled in the Tempe campus program.

All students (domestic and international) may take part in an out-of-state internship during the summer session. The eligibility requirements for CPT internships remain the same as mentioned.

International students must work with the International Students and Scholars Center (ISSC) and submit additional documentation to obtain work authorization. Students desiring to do CPT must include the CPT course CSE 584 (1 credit hour) as an integral part of their program of study, reflected by their approved iPOS. The addition of CPT credit(s) should be done at the initial submission of the student's iPOS. SCAI recommends listing 3 individual CSE 584 (1 credit hour) courses in the iPOS. The Internship course cannot be added to an approved iPOS once all coursework has been completed. Approval of an iPOS with CSE 584 credit confirms that the internship is an integral part of the degree requirements as planned by the student. An internship that is not part of the educational plan can be removed from the iPOS. Note: Only internship courses can be removed from the iPOS. Courses that are approved as part of the overall degree program in the iPOS can only be replaced with other approved coursework.

In order to be eligible for an internship, a student must be in **good academic standing (cumulative, graduate, and iPOS GPA of 3.0 or above)**.

**Fall/spring semesters: Students with a GPA of 3.25 or higher may participate in an in-state or out-of-state internship, full or part-time. A campus presence is required.**

During the regular fall and spring semesters, international graduate students on F-1 status must register for a minimum of nine (9) credit hours to maintain full-time status - of which six (6) credit hours must be in-person, on-campus coursework at the ASU Tempe campus. Three (3) credit hours of online course are permitted. The CSE 580 practicum course will not satisfy the student's "physical presence" at ASU.

Required documents and forms for the internship proposal must be submitted online using DocuSign at least four weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the internship is planned. Students will not be able to request late-add registration of the CSE 584 Internship credit to their class schedule after each semester's add/drop deadline. Students will be asked to enroll in the next session within the term.

An approved proposal is required before commencing the internship. The request will include a statement from the employer that indicates they understand the work is to satisfy a degree requirement. A sample letter and other required forms are available on the SCAI [CPT website](#).

#### **Renegé: (verb) to fail to carry out a promise or commitment**

It is unethical for students to continue to seek or consider other employment opportunities once an offer has been accepted. SCAI expects students to honor an acceptance and withdraw from all employment-seeking activities. Students who accept an offer from an organization and later renege/decline the offer will be prohibited from requesting future CPT pending a meeting with the Assistant Director.

**A five-page final report is required** at the end of the internship before a grade is given. The final report must be submitted to the reporting supervisor (Industry Mentor) for comments and then to the faculty advisor for grade assignment. Students do not need a faculty mentor signature. Refer to the SCAI [CPT website](#) for guidelines for preparing the final report.

#### **j. Engineering Student Organizations**

There are dozens of engineering student organizations and teams ranging from honors and professional associations to groups creating underwater robots, concrete canoes and launching rockets. Student organizations are excellent opportunities to learn about career possibilities as many of the student groups operate in conjunction with industry professional societies... get involved today! Please visit <http://studentorgs.engineering.asu.edu/> for a list of Engineering Student Organization.

#### **k. Instructional Concerns and Course-Related Complaints**

Being part of a large university creates opportunities to learn from a diverse instructor population with different teaching styles and modalities for delivering course content. Courses are offered by a diverse set of faculty, including, those whose primary responsibility is teaching, GSA/TA instructional staff, and part-time faculty who are working in the field.

Based on enrollment or modality of offering, faculty may also be supported by graduate student teaching assistants, GSAs and graders. This diverse higher education delivery platform may differ significantly from previous experiences, and while it provides an opportunity to expand the student's ability to learn and develop problem-solving skills, concerns and conflicts with requirements and instructors may occasionally arise. SCAI students with instructional concerns should review and adhere to the following guidelines for attempting to resolve their issues. First and foremost, keep in mind that the faculty and advising staff are experienced, dedicated educators that are here to help you achieve your educational goals. At the same time, they have a responsibility to ensure standards are maintained and student outcomes are achieved before graduation. The university culture recognizes the value of diversity in multiple dimensions and the presumption of expertise and academic freedom of the faculty.

### **Communicate with your Instructor**

If you have a difference of opinion with your instructor, teaching assistant (TA) or graduate support assistant (GSA) or have concerns about technical or administrative aspects of the course, visit the instructor or TA/GSA during office hours or contact them via email (if you cannot visit them during the office hours). Express your concerns clearly and respectfully and ask for help. Be sure to provide concise information about what you have trouble understanding in the course or your concern. Instructors and GSA or TAs are here to help. Remember that you are responsible for prerequisite knowledge/skills required for a course and regularly studying the material taught in the course. The teaching staff may not be able to help you with your problem if you lack the prerequisite knowledge/skills or have not been keeping up with the course material. As a guideline, for a 15-week course, you should spend three hours study time every week for each hour of course credit. Thus, you should schedule 8-10 hours each week to devote to each 3-credit course. For a 7.5-week course, students should be prepared to spend 6 hours a week on coursework for every 1-course credit. So, you should expect to spend approximately 18 hours a week on coursework for a three-credit course. Also, make sure to resolve the issues as soon as they occur and maintain all documentation. For example, if the assignment instructions are not clear, get the clarification on the day the assignment is assigned and not wait until the assignment's deadline.

If you are still having problems in the course after communicating with your instructor, TA or GSA, connect with your academic advisor to understand your options moving forward.

### **Connect with your CSE Program Chair**

If you are unable to resolve the concern after initial contact with the instructor GSA or TA, and you have met with your academic advisor, you should then connect with the program chair for your degree (or the department offering the course). The program chair will confer with the instructor and/or GSA/TA to better understand the concern and try to resolve the problem. Please note that before meeting with the program chair, you should have made a reasonable effort to meet with the course instructor (not just the support GSA or TA) and get the issue resolved. When contacting the program chair, provide all the relevant details such as the course syllabus, assignment handout, email exchange with the instructor, etc. so that the program chair can promptly act on your concerns. Please be brief and precise in the

description of your concerns. In some cases, the graduate program chair would like to meet you. When coming for the meeting, bring along all the relevant documents.

If the instructional concern is not resolved with the program chair or the department offering the course, contact the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Office for the college offering the course for assistance through the grade grievance process

<https://engineering.asu.edu/grade-grievance/>.

### **Remain Focused**

When faced with instructional concerns, it is important to remain focused on the rest of the course while addressing specific areas that are under review. Be sure to stay connected with your academic advisor if there are any changes in your situation.

### **NOTE:**

- Misrepresentation of facts or disrespectful behavior when confronting your instructor or teaching assistant is considered an academic integrity violation.
- Maintain all documentation.
- Act proactively and promptly.

### **In Summary, Guidelines for Avoiding Problems**

- Be sure you have the necessary prerequisite knowledge before starting a course;
- Attend class and online exercises regularly;
- Devote time each week to studying to avoid falling behind;
- Contact the TA (if assigned) or instructor during office hours at first sign of trouble and come prepared to ask precise questions and to explain your difficulty
- Accept the fact that you grow intellectually and professionally by being challenged and learning to deal with diverse expectations and environments.

### **Process for Resolving Conflicts in Grading, Course Expectations, etc.**

- Contact the TA (if available) or instructor to explain your concern and seek resolution;
- If the TA/instructor has attempted to assist you, but you are still having an academic difficulty that is causing personal stress or hindering your academic success, see your Academic Advisor;
- If the TA/instructor is not responsive or does not provide a legitimate response/accommodation, then contact your graduate program chair.
- If you still feel there is a legal, ethical, or procedural violation that is victimizing you, contact the Office of the Associate Dean of Engineering for Academic Affairs.
- Circumventing this process will be considered a violation of professional ethics and protocol.

**Ground Campus Students please review the Orientation video for your degree program. The video is available through Canvas in your My ASU.**

**Online students should continue to review their degree onboarding course in Coursera.**