

# Master of Science in Computer Science Graduate Handbook 2024-2025

Including concentrations in Media Arts & Sciences, Big Data Systems, Bio-Medical Informatics and Cybersecurity



## MANUAL OF THE M.S. DEGREE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND CONCENTRATIONS

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

For more information, please contact:

Office of Graduate Programs  
School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence  
Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering  
Arizona State University  
P.O. Box 878809  
Tempe, AZ 85287-8809  
PHONE: (480) 965-3199

CSE on the web: <https://scai.engineering.asu.edu/graduate-computer-science/>  
E-mail address: [scai.grad.tempe@asu.edu](mailto:scai.grad.tempe@asu.edu)

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# 1. The ASU Computer Science Program

At ASU's School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence (SCAI), 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 an information-driven society and by its students as a preferred location for acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to this vision.

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 to advance knowledge and practice in computing, information and decision technologies to enhance society.

## 2. Master of Science in Computer Science

The Master of Science in Computer Science is a 30-credit hour program that provides students with a comprehensive foundation in computer science and AI and prepares them for highly technical jobs in the computing industry, research labs, and to pursue doctoral degrees.

The MS in CS program comes in 5 concentrations:

- Generic (G)
- Concentration in Media Arts and Science (MAS)
- Concentration in Big Data Systems (BDS)
- Concentration in Biomedical Informatics (BMI)
- Concentration in Cybersecurity (CS)

The MS in CS programs offer 3 culminating options: an Applied Project, a Portfolio, or a thesis. The thesis option is ideal for research-oriented students who are interested in delving deeper into cutting-edge technologies with a faculty supervisor. The applied project allows the student to undertake a semester-long hands-on project. The Portfolio option is suitable for students interested in learning about the science of computers in a non-research environment. The MS program provides numerous opportunities for interdisciplinary study. The MAS concentration and BMI concentrations do not support the project portfolio option.

### 3. 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. In case there are any differences between the Graduate College policies and procedures and the computer science program requirements, it is because the Computer Science Engineering (CSE) program has established higher standards. Students must satisfy both sets of requirements. Policies and procedures are occasionally amended to improve the program. Changes will be communicated to students through their ASU e-mail, our primary form of communication. Any updates to this handbook will be posted on our website <https://scai.engineering.asu.edu/graduate/>.

### 4. Student Responsibility

All students are expected to become familiar and abide by:

1. The University and program policies and procedures - <https://graduate.asu.edu/policies>
2. The Computer Science program requirements are laid out in this handbook.

### 5. ASU 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 compiled resources and best practices guides to help your educational journey. We encourage you to contact a SCAI Graduate Advising Office graduate advisor if you need additional guidance and support.

- [Graduate Wellness Resources](#) – a one-page guide to Financial, Social, Emotional, and Physical Health and Wellness Resources for ASU Graduate Students was 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
- [Success Coaches](#) - Part concierge, part support system, your coach will be there every step of the way to help you overcome hurdles between you and your goals.
- [Financial Aid](#) - A dedicated team for all your financial, funding, scholarship and FAFSA questions.
- [Pat Tillman Veterans Center](#) - Support team and services to ensure success among military students.
- [ASU Help Desk](#) - The ASU Helpdesk is available 24/7 to provide you with Technical support and assistance with your courses.
- [ASU Library](#) - All the resources of a traditional library, at your fingertips... articles, eBooks, tutorials, and the research help needed to support your academic success!
- [Student Accessibility and Inclusive Learning](#) - Also known as “SAILS” provides services to qualified students with disabilities on all ASU campuses.
- [Career Services](#) - Whether you are a student looking for an internship, an alum looking for a job or an employer looking to recruit, Handshake can get you connected.
- [Alumni Association](#) - Online students are welcome and encouraged to attend alumni events in their area.
- [ASU Online Social Media](#) - Stay up-to-date on university happenings and fun ways to connect with classmates and the university.

- [Sun Devils Connect](#) - An ASU Online Facebook group dedicated to current students. Connect and network with other students around the country and get the insider scoop on ASU Online events, competitions and opportunities.
- [Slack](#) - Live chat with your Success Coach, instructors, classmates or join a social channel.
- [ASU Bookstore](#) – Shop for your textbooks, computers, tablets, and other accessories as needed.
- for a list of the faculty names, areas of expertise, and research interests.

A.S.U. prohibits all forms of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. To view A.S.U.'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, A.S.U. does not discriminate based on 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, 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 how to make a report, please go to [www.asu.edu/reportit/](http://www.asu.edu/reportit/).

## 6. Admission to the MS Degree Programs

The Computer Science MS 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 the School of Computing and Augmented Intelligence, Advising Office, CenterPoint Suite 105 to obtain advice on their educational pursuits.

### A. Eligibility

Before applying to the CS MS program, students are required to have completed 2 semesters or 6 credit hours of calculus, equivalent to Calculus I and II. Discrete math is also recommended before admission.

### B. Application

All students are required to submit an application and all the required supporting materials with the Office of Graduate Admissions <https://admission.asu.edu/apply/graduate> and pay the required fee to have their application reviewed and processed.

### C. Application Deadlines

- December 1 for Fall start
- August 1 for Spring start

To receive full consideration, please submit all required documents by the deadline.

## **D. GRE Scores**

“General GRE” scores are required for admission to the CS MS program. GRE scores are not required for students who have graduated from ASU’s undergraduate B.S. in Computer Science or the B.S.E. in Computer Systems Engineering degree programs and ASU STEM undergraduate majors with a GPA equal to or greater than 3.75. STEM means Science (encompassing biological, physical, chemical, and computing sciences), Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

Students must arrange to submit the official general Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores directly to the Office of Graduate Admissions. The average GRE scores for students admitted into the M.S. programs have been 153 (or 63 percentile) verbal, 163 (or 88 percentile) quantitative, and 4.0 analytical. Note: We do not require specific subject GRE scores. Admission decisions are made based on the entire application packet. The ASU institution code is 4007. If a department code is required, use 0000 for GRE.

## **E. TOEFL/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 score of 575 (paper-based) or 90 (internet-based) for TOEFL, 7 for IETLS, 65 for Pearson, or 115 for Duolingo for admission. Note that your application will not be processed until the university receives official English Proficiency scores, which are valid for two (2) years from the start date of the degree program. Exemption from the English Proficiency requirement can be determined by visiting the Graduate Admission site under English Proficiency. Please address all English Proficiency questions with the Office of Graduate Admissions. The ASU institution code is 4007. If a department code is required, use 99 for TOEFL.

## **F. Personal Statement**

The application must include a personal statement. The statement should explain professional goals and reasons for desiring to enroll in the M.S. program. A student interested in pursuing a thesis option should describe any research experience, indicate personal research interests, and identify two (2) or three (3) ASU CSE faculty members with matching research interests.

## **G. Transcripts**

Transcripts can be uploaded at the time of the application. Official transcripts must be submitted after admission.

## **H. GPA Requirement**

To be considered for the MS program, we require a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in the last 60 credit hours of the undergraduate degree.

## I. Application Evaluation

Several factors are considered when evaluating a student's application: the student's cumulative GPA, major, institution, personal statement, standardized test scores, and performance in individual courses.

## J. Notice of Admission

CSE submits its recommendation to the Office of Graduate Admission, which will email the applicant the final admission notice. You may check your application status on My ASU ([my.asu.edu](http://my.asu.edu)).

## K. Admission Deferrals

Students may defer their initial start semester and year of admission to one semester with the recommendation from the degree program. Requests for deferrals must be submitted by the start of the term of original admission. Students who miss the deferral deadlines can submit a petition for an enrollment exception for the original admit term, which may be filed in the iPOS as a Leave of Absence (LOA) request.

## L. Deficiencies

Students in the MS programs are admitted from a variety of backgrounds. To ensure that all students have an adequate background in computer science at the undergraduate level, all students need to show competence in the following areas, as covered by the following ASU undergraduate courses:

- CSE 230 - Computer Organization and Assembly Language Programming
- CSE 310 - Data Structures and Algorithms
- CSE 330 - Operating Systems
- CSE 340 - Principles of Programming Languages or CSE 355 - Introduction to Theoretical Computer Science

Many students meet this requirement by taking courses in these areas in their undergraduate years. Students who have not taken the equivalent of these courses or earned a low grade in these courses may be assigned deficiencies in these courses upon admission.

All students assigned with a deficiency in their admission letter have three (3) options to meet the assigned deficiency:

1. Petition for Re-evaluation
2. Deficiency test-out exam **or**
3. Enroll in the course and pass it with a grade of "C" or better.

Please note that each option has a specific deadline that you must meet.

### Option 1: Petition for Reevaluation

Students wishing to have their course syllabi examined as evidence that deficiencies have been satisfied must submit a petition. The request must be submitted using the [Petition for Reevaluation of Deficiency Course](#) form and supporting documents such as a syllabus, catalog description, and university transcripts (including the grade scale), having met the requirements. Be advised that the



documents you uploaded during the admission application have been evaluated. A re-evaluation petition should only be submitted if you have new information to provide. Once the petition has been reviewed, the decision is final. There will be no future petitions or consideration requests. If the petition is not approved after the evaluation, the student may take the deficiency test-out examination. Students must submit a petition for each course deficiency that you want to be re-evaluated.

**Deadline: Students must submit the [Petition for Re-evaluation of Deficiency Course](#) for the courses that they want to be re-evaluated **BEFORE** the first day of classes of the admission term.**

### Option 2: Deficiency Test-Out Exam

An online course proficiency examination (career catalyst) is available for students to take entering with deficiencies (listed in the admission letter). These exams establish whether a student possesses basic knowledge of the course material sufficient to have an assigned deficiency waived. Each subject examination costs \$59, per attempt, which is payable at the time of registration. Students have a maximum of two attempts for each subject.

**Deadline: Students must take the Career Catalyst exam for the deficiency courses and pass them before the first day of classes of the admission term. The passing certificates must be [submitted](#) before the first day of classes of the admission term.**

### Option 3: Enroll in the Course

Students can choose to enroll and pass the course(s) in their first year. A student has a total of two (2) attempts to clear the deficiency. Assigned deficiencies must be completed with a grade of C or higher in their first year in the program. Students assigned to CSE 340 have the option of enrolling in CSE 340 or CSE 355. For CSE 340/355, the two attempts are combined. A student cannot take CSE 340 twice and CSE 355 twice to clear their deficiency, as this would total four attempts.

**Deadline: Students must pass the deficiency courses within one year from the start of classes of the admission term.**

## M. Pre-admission Credits and Transfer Credit

Credit hours completed at ASU or at another regionally accredited U.S. institution or international institution officially recognized by that country, before the semester and year of admission to an ASU graduate degree program, are considered pre-admission credits. The CSE Program allows a student to transfer a maximum of six (6) credit hours of graduate coursework from another accredited institution. With the approval of the academic unit and the Graduate College, students may transfer a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours of graduate coursework that was taken at ASU. The graduate-level credit hours must have grades of “B” or better and must not have been not used toward a previous degree. A course with a grade of “Pass”, “Credit”, or “Satisfactory” is not acceptable for transfer. Pre-admission credits must have been taken within three (3) years of admission to the ASU degree or certificate program to be accepted. If coursework older than three (3) years from the admission term of a new program is being applied towards the program as pre-admission coursework, the maximum time limit to complete the current degree may be updated to reflect the start date of the pre-admission coursework.

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 Chair. See the Pre-Admission Credit Section of the Graduate College Policies and Procedures Manual for more details. Approved transfer credit cannot count towards meeting the core requirement unless the credit was earned at ASU.

## 7. MS Degree Requirements

The Master of Science in Computer Science is a 30-credit hour program that provides students with a comprehensive foundation in computer science and AI and prepares them for highly technical jobs in the computing industry, research labs, and to pursue doctoral degrees. The following are the CS MS program options:

### A. MS Program Options

#### 1. MS in Computer Science - Thesis, Applied Project, Portfolio

**Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours**

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

**Elective Courses: 15 - 21 credit hours**

**Culminating Event Options:**

- CSE 599 Thesis (6)
- CSE 593 Applied Project (3)
- Portfolio (0)

#### 2. MS in Computer Science (Big Data Systems Concentration) - Thesis, Applied Project, Portfolio

**Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours**

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

**Required Concentration Courses: 9 credit hours**

- CSE 510 Database Management System Implementation (3)
- CSE 512 Distributed Database Systems (3)
- CSE 572 Data Mining (3) or IEE 520 Statistical Learning for Data Mining (3)

**Restricted Electives: An additional 6 credit hours is required from the following courses:**

- CSE 515 Multimedia and Web Databases (3)
- CSE 546 Cloud Computing (3)
- CSE 573 Semantic Web Mining (3)
- CSE 575 Statistical Machine Learning (3)
- CSE 578 Data Visualization (3)
- CSE 594 Spatial Data Science and Engineering (3)

**Elective Courses: 0- 6 credit hours****Culminating Event Options:**

- CSE 599 Thesis (6 credits)
- CSE 593 Applied Project (3 credits)
- Portfolio (0 Credits)

### 3. MS in Computer Science (Cybersecurity concentration) -Thesis, Applied Project, Portfolio

**Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours**

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

**Required Concentration Courses: 9 credit hours****Required 3 credit hours**

- CSE 543: Information Assurance and Security (3)

**Choose 2 courses (6 credit hours) from the following:**

- CSE 539 Applied Cryptography (3)
  - CSE 545: Software Security (3)
  - CSE 548: Advanced Computer Network Security (3)
  - CSE 591/598 Cybersecurity topics (3) with approval of Chair\*
- \* With an approved petition

**Elective Courses: 6 - 12 credit hours****Culminating Event Options:**

- CSE 599 Thesis (6)
- CSE 593 Applied Project (3)
- Portfolio (0)

### 4. MS in Computer Science (Media Arts and Sciences) - Thesis, Applied Project

**Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours**

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

**Required Concentration Courses: 9 credit hours of AME 5XX coursework in Media Arts and Science.**

- AME 511 Advanced Interactive Sound (3)
- AME 515 Machine Vision and Pattern Recognition (3)
- AME 520 Understanding Activity (3)
- AME 532 Media Synthesis (3)
- AME 534 Machine Learning for Media Arts (3) \*
- AME 535 Mobile Development (3)
- AME 551 Designing Extended-Reality Experiences (3) \*
- AME 570 Programming for Social and Interactive Media (3)
- AME 598 Special Topics (3) \* with the approval of the thesis chair

\* With an approved petition

**Elective Courses: 6 - 12 credit hours**

**Thesis Option:** Up to six (6) of these hours can be CSE 590 Reading and Conference (as Independent Study) can be taken.

**Culminating Event Options:**

- CSE 599 Thesis (4)
- AME 599 Thesis (2)
- CSE 593 Applied Project (3)

**5. MS in Computer Science (Biomedical Informatics) - Thesis, Applied Project**

**Required Core Courses: 9 credit hours**

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

**Required Concentration Courses: 9 credit hours of coursework in Biomedical Informatics:**

**Required 6 credit hour**

- BMI 601 Health Informatics (3)
- BMI 502 Foundations of BMI Methods I (3)

**Select 1 from the list below:**

- BMI 505 Foundations of BMI Methods II (3)
- BMI/CEN/CSE 507 Introduction to Digital Image Processing and Analysis (3)
- BMI 517 Adv Biostats Biomed Research (3)
- BMI 550 Translational Bioinformatics (3)
- BMI 598 Topic: Knowledge Management and Engineering (3)
- BMI 615 Human Factors Eng Biomed App (3)
- BMI 616 Clinical Decision Support (3)

**Elective Courses: 6 - 12 credit hours**

**Culminating Event Options:**

- CSE 599 Thesis (6)
- CSE 593 Applied Project (3)

**Students will focus their research in one of the following areas:**

- bioinformatics
- biomedical informatics
- clinical informatics
- imaging informatics
- public health informatics

**Electives:** Additional elective coursework may be required. If a student selects any of the concentration courses that are also listed as a core area course, additional coursework may be required to complete the degree. In turn, coursework selected as part of the core courses may not be used towards the concentration or the elective coursework on the same study plan. Students

should check with their academic advisor to ensure that the total credit hours of their plan of study are equal to 30.

**Thesis Option:** Up to six (6) of these hours can be CSE 590 Reading and Conference (as Independent Study) can be taken. **Note:** Students must successfully pass a thesis defense to graduate.

**Applied Project Option:** Students in the Applied Project must complete the project with a grade of “B” or better and pass the oral presentation.

## B. Formulation of the Plan of Study

A minimum of 30 semester hours - not including deficiency courses and CS 584 (CPT credits)

The MS is comprised of three (3) major milestones, which all students are required to complete successfully prior to graduation:

1. Completion of coursework
2. Filing an approved plan of study
3. Successful oral defense of an approved written thesis or a completion of an applied project or project portfolio

A student must submit a plan of study (iPOS) online through My ASU before the end of their first semester of starting the graduate program. The iPOS is subject to approval by the Graduate Program Chair and the thesis student’s supervisory committee. Thesis students need to finalize their committee in their 3rd semester. After approval at the school level, the 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. Exceptions will be made for the AME and the BMI program which will use the 24 credit hours of CSE 5XX requirement. 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, 594, and 598). CSE 590 is allowed only for students completing the thesis option.

Specifically, students may not take and count both CSE 450/551 or CSE 471/571 or CSE 511/512 or IEE 520/CSE 572 as these courses are classified as anti-requisites in the academic catalog due to significant overlap between the courses.

In addition to meeting the requirements specified above, a student is required to pass an oral thesis defense or complete an applied project or project portfolio. Non-thesis students completing a portfolio are required to complete a project portfolio from two courses in which the student received a "B" (3.00) grade or higher. Students in the Applied Project must complete the project with a grade of a B (3.00) grade or higher and pass the oral presentation.

All students must take and pass at least three (3) credit hours in each of the three (3) core courses: Foundations, Systems, and Applications. Transfer credits 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/>).

### 1. Approved 400 and 4XX/5XX Level Courses

A maximum of six (6) credit hours of 400-level coursework is allowed. A maximum of 12 hours 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 course. (CSE 4XX course lists available at: <https://scai.engineering.asu.edu/graduate-computer-science/>).

Non-CSE prefix courses outside the unit require the Program Chair's approval before enrolling it to count towards the degree requirement.

**What is not allowed for non-CSE 5XX electives:**

1. A graduate course from a different program like or is a subset of an undergraduate course in Computer Science.
2. A graduate course from a different program that substantially overlaps (more than 30%) with a course previously taken or are planning to take.

If a course from another program sounds similar to one that you have taken or are planning to take, please submit the syllabus of both classes and explain why you think the overlap is less than 30%.

## C. Details of the Thesis Option

### 1. Selection of Faculty Advisor

When a student has decided on a primary area of research, the student must select a faculty advisor. The faculty advisor must have the right to chair computer science committees. The faculty advisor will serve as the chair of the supervisory committee that supervises the student's thesis. A list of approved faculties that can serve as the chair of a CS PhD dissertation committee is here:

<https://graduateapps.asu.edu/graduate-faculty>.

In cases where a student identifies a faculty member with the right to co-chair for their thesis, he/she needs to secure a second faculty member who has the right to chair. Faculty will serve as co-chairs for the student's thesis in the study plan.

### 2. Thesis Supervisory Committee

The faculty advisor and the student will select a supervisory committee of at least three members. The supervisory committee must include the faculty advisor(s) (thesis chair or two co-chairs) and one or two committee members. For students in the Cybersecurity, BDS, BMI, and MAS concentrations, at least one member of the student's committee must be from that concentration.

The composition of the committee must be in accordance with the guidelines of the graduate college. Once the committee is established, changes to the committee are highly discouraged. Any changes to the committee must be submitted by completing a Graduate Committee Change form that is signed by the student and all members of the student's committee.

The supervisory committee approves the subject and title of the thesis. The supervisory committee also advises the student during the formulation of the research topic and the completion of the research and thesis.

**Thesis Proposal Requirements:**

All thesis students are expected to have a proposal on file when registering for CSE 599 in their 6 or last 3 credit hours.

### 3. Thesis Defense

A student must be enrolled in at least one graduate-level credit at the time of the defense. If holding the defense during the interim period between semesters, the student must be registered for the following semester. For example, if defending during the period between the spring and summer semester, the student must be registered for the summer session. Please see the Graduate College policies.

Once the thesis is completed, the student will submit it to the committee members. There will be an open oral defense following the completion of the thesis. A student can schedule the defense after securing approval from the thesis chair and obtaining approval from the graduate college for the formatted thesis document. The student must schedule their defense through MyASU at least 10 business days prior to the defense date.

The graduate college publishes information regarding thesis preparation, formal requirements, deadlines, and oral examinations. The student must comply with all guidelines that the graduate college publishes regarding submitting a thesis and scheduling a thesis defense.

Students must be physically present at the oral defense of their thesis or dissertation. It is expected that oral defenses will be held on an ASU campus (for in-person defenses) and during regular business hours (8am-5pm AZ Mountain Standard Time) to facilitate student, faculty, and public accessibility. A student has the option to include a virtual link to encourage audience attendance. When there are sound educational reasons for holding a defense under different circumstances, contact the Graduate College for approval before scheduling the defense.

All members of a student's supervisory committee must attend the final oral defense of a thesis or dissertation. However, there are situations (e.g. faculty travel, faculty emergencies and/or faculty leave) that may necessitate holding a defense with one or more committee member(s) absent. The committee chair must be in attendance. If a committee member cannot attend, a qualified substitute must be appointed to attend in their place. The substitute should be a regular faculty member within the academic unit. In these circumstances, the Graduate College must be notified with the name of the member who will be absent, the faculty member who will attend as a substitute, and the student's name and ID number. This information must be submitted before the defense.

Once a defense has been scheduled and approved in the iPOS, students must submit within 10 business days a complete draft copy of the thesis/dissertation to be defended. This is completed by uploading the document to their Interactive Plan of Study.

The supervisory committee evaluates the thesis and the student's performance on the defense. The committee votes the thesis as pass, pass with changes (major or minor), or fail. The decision to fail is final.

#### 4. Prior to defense:

1. Obtain a consensus of approval from the committee chair and the members to proceed with the oral defense.
2. Schedule a date and time with your committee for the oral defense.
3. Important: Ensure that a minimum of 50% of the official committee will be physically present at the defense. If at least 50% of the committee cannot be physically present, the defense must be rescheduled. Visit the Graduate College website to become familiar with the dates and deadlines on format approval and oral defense. Rules for absent committee members are here: [https://graduate.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2022-07/absent-committee-member-process\\_0.pdf](https://graduate.asu.edu/sites/default/files/2022-07/absent-committee-member-process_0.pdf)

#### 5. 10 days prior to the defense:

These steps are required to be completed at least 10 business days prior to the date of the oral defense.

1. Follow the instructions [here](#) to reserve a room with SCAI.
2. Schedule your defense through your iPOS/My ASU.
3. Submit a [defense announcement](#) request to the SCAI main office. You will need to include your thesis title, abstract, full names of your committee members, defense date/time/place, and your name as you want it to appear on the announcement.

#### 6. On the day of the defense:

Set up all your equipment at least one half-hour prior to your presentation to make sure it works.

#### 7. After the defense:

Your committee will discuss the results of the exam with you and may have additional comments for you. In the end, the committee will make a recommendation: Pass, Pass with minor revisions, Pass with major revisions, or Fail. The preliminary defense results must be submitted by all committee members via the defense results tab in the iPOS within 10 days after the defense occurrence. If there are revisions required by the committee, they will need to be completed and approved by the committee before a full "Pass" can be designated in the iPOS. If the committee's requested revisions are not completed by the graduation deadlines for the semester of the defense, the student will need to maintain continuous enrollment until they are completed. If they are not successfully completed within one year of the defense, re-submission of the document and a re-defense of the thesis or dissertation may be required in order to ensure the currency of research.

#### **A Fail decision is final.**

Revisions are normal and are expected to be completed within one year. A student must remain registered until the finished document has been uploaded to ProQuest.



Follow the steps on My ASU for uploading your final thesis through the Graduate College and ProQuest. More instructions for graduate college rules and procedures after the defense are here:

<https://graduate.asu.edu/current-students/completing-your-degree/about-your-defense#nav-after-defense>

## D. Project Portfolio

All students admitted to the MS (Non-Thesis) degree program must complete a project portfolio. The portfolio is a compilation of two completed projects that were finished in two (2) MS program courses. Students must write a portfolio report highlighting the two completed projects. All CSE 500-level regular courses are eligible for the portfolio if the student can get an attestation from the instructor that they have done at least 30% of the project work for the course in combination with an in-class project and additional out-of-class (self-study) work. For students pursuing concentration, one of the two portfolios must be from the concentration courses or the restricted electives for the concentration. The student must have received a final grade of “B” or better in the course to use it for their portfolio.

## E. Applied Project

CSE 593 is a “capstone” project for the master’s degree in computer science, with any concentration. Students will work with a faculty member on a semester-long project. This is one of three alternatives to a culminating experience (the other two being a master’s Thesis or the portfolio option). The faculty member and the student agree upon the project. The student works on the project for one semester with the faculty, and at the end of the semester the project is submitted to the advising faculty for final approval.

**Choosing a faculty advisor:** Your faculty advisor should have Chairing rights in the Computer Science graduate programs. List of faculties that have the rights to chair an applied project is here: <https://graduateapps.asu.edu/graduate-faculty/degree/G2>

Reach out to the Advising Office if you want to register for CSE 593 with a faculty member who does not have CS Chairing rights in the program. For students in the Cybersecurity, BDS, BMI, and MAS concentrations, the faculty member must be from that concentration.

To successfully complete the applied project culminating experience, they must obtain a grade of B or better in CSE 593. Students who fail CSE 593 can only attempt it one more time. The student must notify the new faculty advisor and ask if they take CSE 593 with a different faculty advisor the second time.

Cybersecurity scholarship students need two cybersecurity faculty to share the CSE 593 supervision. Cybersecurity scholarship students may have additional scholarship requirements to complete as part of their culminating event. The scholarship coordinator is required to sign off on project requests.

## F. Accelerated Computer Science Degree

An Accelerated (4+1) BS-BSE/MS program is available for ASU undergraduate students in computer science and computer systems engineering with concentrations in Cybersecurity, Big Data Systems, Biomedical Informatics, and Media Arts and Sciences. The accelerated program

allows a maximum of 9 credit hours to be shared with their undergraduate and graduate programs, and 3 credit hours reserved for the undergrad to be applied for the graduate program.

All 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 with the timeframe for the GPA to be raised to a satisfactory level. Students who do not raise their GPA to a 3.0 within the provided timeline risk dismissal from the program.

**Note:** any 500 level courses taken as an undergraduate student will immediately count towards your satisfactory progress graduate GPA calculation once you become a graduate student.

## 8. General Information, Policies, and Procedures

### A. Research Standards for Publication of Thesis

Graduate research is the study of an issue that is of sufficient breadth and depth to be publishable in a CSE-related journal. The effort should reflect a minimum of 750 hours of thoughtful work. The research should follow the “scientific method” and be both objective and reproducible. The thesis should demonstrate independent, original, and creative inquiry. There should be predefined hypotheses or developmental goals and objectives that are measurable and can be tested. The document should demonstrate written English proficiency and conform to the Graduate College format guidelines. Publication of a research paper is not required for a thesis defense.

### B. Financial Assistance and/or Fellowships

There are limited funds for MS and PhD students. Students are encouraged to pursue assistantships outside of CSE and not limit their search to only CSE. Information regarding other sources of financial assistance is 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/graduate-fellowships/>

### C. Continuous Enrollment

Once admitted to a graduate degree program, students must be registered for at least one (1) credit hour during all phases of their graduate education, 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 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 research (592), thesis (599), or continuing registration (595), OR
- Be a graduate-level course
- Be a deficiency course that is listed on the student’s admit letter

Grades of “W” and/or “X” are not valid registration for continuous enrollment purposes. “W” grades are received when a student officially withdraws 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 (1) year to complete work for an incomplete grade. If the work is not completed and the grade is not changed within one (1) year to a passing grade of “C” or better, the “I” grade becomes permanent. Additional information regarding incomplete grades can be found at <http://asu.edu/aad/manuals/ssm/ssm203-09.html>.

## **D. Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal**

There are appropriate circumstances when students may need to withdraw from the university (i.e., medical withdrawal, compassionate leave). The policies for such withdrawals are the same for undergraduate and graduate students. An approved [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal](#) is valid toward meeting the continuous enrollment policy.

## **E. Leave of Absence Policies**

Graduate students planning to discontinue registration for a semester or more due to extenuating circumstances must submit a request for a Leave of Absence through their iPOS. Requests should have enough detail to fully understand the situation and steps you should take so that you can continue in the next semester. This request must be submitted and approved before the anticipated semester of non-registration. Students may request a maximum of two (2) semesters during their entire program.

Having a Leave of Absence approved by the Graduate College will enable students to re-enter their program without reapplying to the university. Students who do not register for a fall or spring semester without an approved Leave of Absence are considered withdrawn from the 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. However, the student is not permitted to place any demands on university faculty or use any university resources. These resources include university libraries, laboratories, recreation facilities, and/or faculty time.

## **F. Maximum Time Limit**

Master’s students must complete all program requirements within a six (6) year period. The six-year period starts with the semester and year of admission to the master’s program. Graduate courses taken prior to admission that are included in the plan of study must have been completed within three (3) years of the semester and year of admission to the program. Coursework completed over three (3) years ago can be applied towards a degree program as pre-admission coursework. The maximum time limit may be updated to reflect the start date of the pre-admission coursework.

Any exceptions must be approved by the supervisory committee (thesis students), Graduate Program Chair, 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 limit.

## **G. Maximum Credit Load**

SCAI students on the Tempe campus are limited to a maximum of 11 credit hours per semester, unless they hold an RA/TA position. After the first semester, students in good academic standing may submit an overload request for permission to enroll in 12 credit hours. The 12 credits are the maximum allowed credit enrollment for SCAI graduate students.

## **H. Transfer from an Incomplete ASU CSE Graduate Program to Another ASU CSE Graduate Program**

Students who want to change from any CS Master's program (thesis, portfolio, applied project), and MCS Online to the Ph.D. program in Computer Science must submit a new application to ASU Graduate Admissions here: <https://admission.asu.edu/apply>. Admission to the Ph.D. program is not guaranteed.

MCS Online students who want to change to any other MS program or Ph.D. program must submit a new application for admission here: <https://admission.asu.edu/apply>. Admission to the new program is not guaranteed.

All other program change requests can be made here:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciNFKFDebSUaFHjK6eCdzPEuXwud\\_r1P3eNLjKD6u4WaS\\_JA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSciNFKFDebSUaFHjK6eCdzPEuXwud_r1P3eNLjKD6u4WaS_JA/viewform)

Students changing from the MCS/MS Tempe campus to MCS Online should consult with an Academic Advisor before submitting a request.

### **Credit Transfer limits between programs:**

**Change between MS portfolio MS applied project and MCS Online programs** - Can transfer any number of credits if the grades in the courses are "B" or higher. Credits from CSE 590, 790, 792, 799, 599, 593 cannot be transferred. Students will still need to finish their culminating event.

**MS portfolio, MS applied project, and MCS Online to MS thesis** - Can transfer any number of credits to the MS thesis program if the grades in the courses are "B" or higher. A total of 6 credit hours from CSE 590 and/or 790 (combined) can be transferred. At most 6 credits hours from CSE 599 can be transferred. Credits from 792, 799, 593 cannot be transferred. Students will still need to finish their culminating event - MS thesis.

**MS thesis to MS portfolio, MS applied project, and MCS Online** - Can transfer any number of credits from the MS thesis program if the grades in the courses are "B" or higher. Credits from CSE 590, 790, 792, 799, 599 cannot be transferred. Students will still need to finish their culminating event.

**MS (thesis, portfolio, applied project) and MCS Online to Ph.D.** - Can transfer any number of credits from the MS program to the Ph.D. program if the grades in the courses are “B” or higher. Credits from CSE 590, 790, 792, 799 can be transferred. Credits from CSE 599, 593 cannot be transferred.

**Ph.D. to MS thesis** - Can transfer any number of credits from the Ph.D. program to the MS program if the grades in the courses are “B” or higher. A total of 6 credit hours from CSE 590 and/or 790 (combined) can be transferred. At most 6 credits hours from CSE 599 can be transferred. No credits from CSE 792 and 799 can be transferred. Students will still need to finish their culminating event - MS thesis.

**Ph.D. to MS portfolio and MS applied project, and MCS Online** - Can transfer any number of credits from the Ph.D. program to the MS program as long the grades in the courses are “B” or higher. Credits from courses CSE 590, 790, 599, 792, 799 cannot be transferred. Students will still need to finish their culminating event - portfolio or applied project. Note applied project is not an option for MCS Online as of now.

## **I. Registration Requirements for Research Assistants (RA) and Teaching Assistants (TA)**

Students awarded an assistantship within the Ira A. Fulton School 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 School of Engineering are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 6 credit hours. Audit credit does not count toward the 6 credit hours. Enrollment in continuing registration (CSE 595) does not count toward the 6-hour requirement.

TAs and RAs are considered residents for tuition purposes. To be eligible for tuition remission, TAs and RAs must be employed for 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 of their employment. In addition, the university pays the individual health insurance premium for TAs and RAs working 20 hours per week (50 percent FTE). The TA/RA offer does not cover additional fees beyond tuition. In addition to a tuition waiver, students receive a stipend as specified in their offer.

The University provides an award covering the premium for individual health insurance for teaching and research assistants/associates. Teaching and research assistants/associates are required to meet the minimum eligibility requirements during the duration of their appointment (coverage periods are August 16– January 15 and January 16–August 15). These are:

- appointment at 50% time (20 hours per week)
- hired as a TA or RA no later than the end of the eighth week of classes of the semester.

There are four (4) ways a student can fulfill the TA English language requirement. Any of the following will fulfill the language requirement:

1. Take and pass the SPEAK test with a score of 55 or higher. Only SPEAK scores from Global Launch are allowed.

2. Take the iBT (Internet-based TOEFL) test and receive a score of 26 or higher on the oral portion of the test.
3. Take the IELTS test and receive a score of 8 or higher on the speaking portion of the test.
4. Complete the ITA Teacher Training Course with a score of 'certified.'

## **J. Policy for Maintaining Academic Satisfactory**

### **Progress**

After each completed semester, the school may conduct an audit to determine if the student is maintaining the required minimum satisfactory progress. This audit includes 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 student performance for satisfactory progress toward completion of their degree. All students fall into one of the following four categories. Those in categories 2-4 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**

Student is meeting all program requirements. For thesis students, satisfactory progress includes communicating each semester with the student's committee chair regarding his or her progress.

#### **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 iPOS (interactive plan of study), and
3. in all coursework taken at ASU (overall GPA) post-baccalaureate

#### 4. And/or have a grade below “C” 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 3.0 or better in the GPAs listed above by the time the next nine (9) graduate hours are completed. A maximum of two semesters is allowed to complete the nine (9) 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 (9) hours. It is strongly recommended that students focus on improving their grades and meeting deficiency requirements in research, thesis, and registration.

Students who choose to take graduate coursework and not enroll in deficiency courses the following semester will be subject to dismissal.

### 3. Progress Probation

A student under probation who is not making progress towards a degree. The following are notices/letters a student will receive if one of these pertains to their academics:

- Lack of progress toward completing deficiencies as listed on the admission letter.
- Failure to stay in communication with their Thesis Chair each semester.
- Failure to submit an iPOS by the end of the 1st semester.
- Failure to finalize the Supervisory Committee, for the thesis option, by the end of the 3rd semester.

### 4. Withdrawal from the CSE Program

M.S. students may be removed from the program for any of the above- reasons listed above.

A student is recommended for withdrawal from the CSE program if he or she fails to meet the probationary requirements in the probationary letter within the specified time limit. The student will receive a letter from the Computer Science program explaining the reasons for the withdrawal. The student will have five (5) calendar days from the date of the letter to appeal the decision. The CSE Graduate Program Committee (GPC) will review the appeal and make the necessary recommendations. The Graduate Program Chair, or GPC will provide a written explanation of the outcome. If the appeal is approved, the student must meet all the outlined requirements by the end of the specified period. The student will be required to sign an agreement acknowledging the requirements and the consequences if the agreement is not fulfilled.

If the GPC recommends that the student's appeal be denied, the graduate program chair will recommend to the Dean's Office that the student be withdrawn from the CSE program. The student's appeal and all supporting documents will be forwarded to the Ira A. Fulton Schools Standards Committee, which will review the student's case and communicate the final ruling to Associate Dean and the CSE program. If the appeal is denied again, the Dean's Office of Academic and Student Affairs will recommend to the Graduate College that the student be withdrawn from the CSE program. Please refer to the Graduate College Policies and Procedures Manual or contact a graduate advisor in the SCAI Advising Center.

## **K. Dismissal without an Appeal for Assigned Deficiency Courses**

Students admitted with deficiency courses in their admission letter cannot complete the course within two attempts; their names will be forwarded to the Graduate College to be removed from the program. Once the Graduate College completes the removal process, it will be final. Students wanting to return to the program must submit a new application for consideration. If any medical or extenuating circumstances hindered your progress from completing the course(s), please act on it immediately rather than waiting for the outcome.

## **L. Filing for Graduation**

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

## **M. Academic Integrity**

The highest standards of academic integrity are expected of all graduate students in their academic coursework and 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 and the university.

Violations of academic integrity include but are not limited to cheating, fabrication, tampering, plagiarism, and/or aiding and facilitating such activities. Students are expected to be familiar with these issues at the graduate level and each student must take personal responsibility for their work. 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>. Students also should be aware of Ira A. Fulton School's resources related to academic integrity: <https://engineering.asu.edu/integrity/>.

Unless explicitly allowed by your instructor, the use of generative AI tools to complete any portion of a course assignment or exam will be considered academic dishonesty and a violation of the [ASU Academic Integrity Policy](#). Students confirmed to be engaging in non-allowable use of generative AI will be sanctioned according to the academic integrity policy and FSE sanctioning guidelines.

## **N. CSE 584 Internship**

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

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. SCAI recommends listing 3 individual CSE 584 (1 credit hour) courses in the iPOS. The addition of CPT credit(s) should be done at the initial submission of the student's iPOS. The Internship course cannot be added to an iPOS after initial iPOS approval. Exceptions may be made if the internship is relevant to the student's thesis research. In such cases, the CSE program chair will determine the need for a CPT internship in consultation with the graduate academic advisor.

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 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.

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

**Summer:**

- Students can participate in an out-of-state or an in-state internship, full-time or part-time in the summer semester if ALL of their GPA's (graduate, iPOS, and CUM GPA) are at least 2.5.

**Fall/Spring semesters:**

- Students with a GPA of 3.0-3.24 may participate in an in-state internship part-time. Campus presence is required.
- Students with a GPA of 3.25 or higher may participate in an in-state or out-of-state internship, full or part-time. Campus presence is required.

Full-time CPT is 21 hours more. Part-time CPT is 20 hours or less.

For students doing CPT in their last semester, the end date is the last day of finals (Fall/Spring) or last day of class (Summer).

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. Six (6) credit hours must be in-person, on-campus coursework at the ASU Tempe campus and three (3) credit hours of online coursework 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 at least four (4) weeks before the beginning of the semester in which the internship is planned. Students cannot 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 application 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](#).

Thesis students must receive approval from their faculty advisor and the graduate program chair before registering for CSE 584. At the thesis level, an internship is intended to enhance the student's

research capabilities in the area related to the thesis. Therefore, the internship plan must show the relationship between the work proposed and the intended research program. The faculty advisor may be asked to write a separate letter explaining why the internship is required.

**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 Associate 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. Non-Thesis students do not need a faculty mentor signature. Refer to the SCAI CPT website for guidelines for preparing the final report.

## **O. CSE 590 Independent Study (Thesis students only)**

Independent study is available for thesis students. The student must get written approval from the supervising faculty outlining the content to be covered. The independent study form must be approved by the faculty advisor and will be placed in the student's file. A final paper is required for each registered Independent Study course.

## **P. 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. 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 organizations.

## **Q. Instructional Concerns and Course-Related**

### **Complaints**

Being part of a large university creates opportunities to learn from a diverse instructor population each with different teaching styles and modalities for delivering course content. Courses are offered by a diverse set of faculty. Our faculty includes those whose primary responsibility is teaching, GSA/TA instructional staff and part-time faculty who are working in the field. Based on enrollment or the modality of the offerings, 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. This unique delivery platform 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 to attempt to resolve their issues. Please remember that the faculty and advising staff are experienced,

dedicated educators here to help you achieve your educational goals. At the same time, they are responsible for ensuring standards are maintained and student outcomes are achieved before graduation. University culture recognizes the value of diversity in multiple dimensions and the presumption of expertise and academic freedom of the faculty.

### **1. Addressing Concerns with your Instructor:**

Should any concerns arise in class, please visit your instructor or TA/GSA during their office hours. Instructors and TA/GSAs are also available through email. They are here to help! Remember the student code of conduct when speaking with faculty.

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.

### **2. Connect with Your CSE Graduate 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 contact 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/>.

### **3. Studying Suggestions**

As a graduate student, you are expected to keep up with your coursework. If any assignment appears unclear to you, please contact your instructor immediately. A suggestion for hours dedicated to a class as homework are as follows:

- 8-10 hours per week for each 3-hour course credit for a 15-week course
- 18 hours per week for each 3-hour course credit for a 7.5-week course

### **4. 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.

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

- Be sure you have the 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.

**6. 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.