The Graduate School

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (270)

Program Coordinator:
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This program provides students with a foundation for professional work or doctoral level study in Computer Science. Courses include current programming technologies and application areas, and theoretical Computer Science. Students use both Linux and Windows work stations for program development.

The Program
The program consists of 30 credit hours. To accommodate part-time students, most graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon or evening. The program consists of 30 credit hours of instruction. In addition to regular seated classes, a number of courses are currently offered online, and more hybrid and online courses will be added in the future. The program does not require that the baccalaureate degree of incoming students be in computer science, but undergraduate qualifying courses are required of those without a computer science background.

Admission Requirements
The entrance requirements for the Master of Science Program are

- One official copy of all undergraduate and graduate course work, including a baccalaureate transcript from a regionally accredited institution, indicating at least a 3.0 (B) average. **The baccalaureate degree does not have to be in Computer Science.**
- At least two years of college-level mathematics including statistics, calculus, and linear algebra.
- Three letters of reference.
- GRE with Quantitative Scores at least in the 50th percentile. International students should also take appropriate language tests as specified in http://www.newpaltz.edu/graduate/students/exams.html
- GRE and TOEFL or IELTS scores are required for international applicants

Students who do not satisfy the entrance requirements may be admitted with the condition that deficiencies be removed within a prescribed time limit, usually by taking the appropriate undergraduate courses.
Application Procedures
Our online application system allows students to manage their application process. Review the steps below for a quick overview of the process.

1. **PREPARE ADMISSION CHECKLIST ITEMS**
   To expedite a faculty review of an application, students may upload the following items:
   - Admission Essay
   - Student copies of transcripts* from every college/university attended
   - Student copies of standardized test scores*
   - Request letters of recommendation—after submitting the application, students will need to provide their recommender’s name and email address in order to complete the request process.
   - Evidence of NYS teaching certification (if appropriate)
   - Art portfolio (if appropriate)
   - International student documentation
   - Resume/CV (if appropriate)
   - Program specific forms (e.g., Com Dis pre-req form, etc.)

   *Full admission REQUIRES the submission of official transcripts and test scores.

2. **CREATE AN ACCOUNT**
   - SUNY New Paltz students, alumni, faculty and staff must log into the application system using their New Paltz credentials (NPCUID).
   - NEW students may create an account by selecting the New User option and verifying their email address.
   - RETURNING users may access the application system using their email address and password that was included when creating their account.

3. **SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION**
   - Once you have logged into the system, select the term that you would like to begin your program.
   - **NOTE:** Certain programs restrict admission to a specific term. Please email gradschool@newpaltz.edu if you do not see the program that you would like to pursue.

4. **CHECK YOUR APPLICATION STATUS**
   - Log in as a Returning User to modify your application or monitor its status.

5. **Order OFFICIAL transcripts and test scores be sent to:**
   - SUNY New Paltz
     Graduate & Extended Learning
     800 Hawk Drive
     New Paltz, NY 12561-2442

Ready to Apply? [Apply Now]
NOTE: International admissions closes for student residing outside of the U.S. on December 1 for spring (January) admission, and June 15th for fall (August) admission.

The Computer Science faculty will review applications for Fall or Spring admission on a rolling basis. As a guideline, it is best to submit your application materials before November 15 for spring admission and May 15 for fall admission.

Degree Requirements
- File a “plan of study” during the first semester after matriculation.
- Complete prescribed course work within seven years after matriculation.
- Complete course work with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better. No more than two grades below B- will count toward the degree.
- Pass the comprehensive examination or submit a thesis.
- Submit degree application (see Schedule of Classes for due date).

Curriculum Requirements
There are two routes to a MS degree in Computer Science:

(a) Take ten (10) Computer Science graduate courses (30 credits) and pass the Comprehensive Exam. However, a student may substitute up to three graduate Mathematics or Engineering courses approved by the Graduate Coordinator.

or

(b) Interested students who find a suitable advisor may choose to write a thesis. The thesis counts as two courses (6 credits), and substitutes for the comprehensive examination as well.

Regardless of which option you choose, you must complete the required course work with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or better. No more than two grades below B- will count toward the degree.

Each semester the Department offers a selection of courses from the following list and topics courses that reflect the current interests of individual faculty members.

Comprehensive Exam is a three-hour test on the Foundations of Computer Science. Samples of previous exams are available at the Department office.

For course descriptions, please click COURSES.
Teaching Assistantships

Teaching Assistantships are available for students in the MS program. The Assistantship pays a stipend plus tuition for two graduate courses per semester; recipients of the Assistantship conduct undergraduate labs and hold office hours as appropriate. The Assistantships are limited in number and very competitive. You need to apply separately through the department for the TA positions. Applications are available in the department office, SH253.