1. Do prerequisites need to be taken from ASU?

To reduce the barriers to entry, ASU is providing applicants an option to prove their computer fundamental understanding through a series of four short, non-credit courses of which each will have a proctored exam. Passing the proctored exam will provide completion of the prerequisite. To begin, enroll in your courses [here](https://students.asu.edu/paymentplan).

2. What are prerequisites?

Prerequisite knowledge areas are subjects that the MCS program requires incoming students to have a thorough understanding of in order to be successful in graduate coursework. The following topics are prerequisites for the MCS Online degree:

- 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

3. Is there any credit offered for work experience in IT?

No. Academic credit cannot be given for work experience in the field.

4. What is the total cost of the degree program?

The total cost of the degree program is $15,000, or $1,500 per 3-credit course. There are no textbooks required for the courses, and no additional fees. You will only be billed for the courses you are enrolled in.

5. Do I have to pay for the entire degree upfront?

You only have to pay for the courses you are enrolled in. ASU also offers a payment plan, which provides with the option to budget the payment of certain eligible university charges over several months within the semester. [https://students.asu.edu/paymentplan](https://students.asu.edu/paymentplan).

6. Can completing Coursera coursework satisfy prerequisites?

Completing Coursera courses alone does not waive a prerequisite, but completing the courses and working through the material can be an excellent way to prepare for the exams offered in the four short, non-credit courses available through Continuing and Professional Education.
7. Are Coursera specializations accepted in application?

Completion of Open Courses and/or Specializations on the Coursera platform by itself will not earn graduate credits from the university toward the degree. Only credit-bearing coursework will be considered in the application.

8. How can I check the status of my application?

You will receive email updates on the status of your application, so be sure to check your ASU email regularly for these notifications.

You can also see your status by logging into my.asu.edu with your ASURITE id and reviewing the section called ‘My Application Status’. This section will display pending checklist items or an application decision. If you have questions on pending items, please contact us toll-free at 1-844-353-7953 or email mcsenrollment@asu.edu.

9. Are letters of recommendation required for admission?

No, letters of recommendation are optional. In the application, please enter your own name in the letters of recommendation to be able to continue with the application.

10. What is a statement of purpose?

The statement of purpose should include your reasons for undertaking graduate work and an explanation of your academic interests, including their relation to your professional goals. There is no specific length for a statement of purpose. A resume will be accepted as a personal statement. Students are welcome to submit a resume or a personal statement or both.

11. What are the math prerequisites?

Two (2) semesters of advanced math in Calculus I and Calculus II, and a background in discrete math. Students with an undergraduate degree in a STEM field have likely completed the math requirement.

12. Can I select a concentration within my MCS degree?

Yes. You can now pursue a concentration in Cybersecurity. Learn more here: https://asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/cybersecurity-mcs/

13. How much time can I expect to spend per week on class projects and assignments?

These courses follow an accelerated format. As such, you should expect to spend 15 – 20 hours per week on each course.

14. It says the program is 18-36 months Can it be completed earlier than that?

The completion time is based on the number of courses you enroll per semester. You must complete 30 credit hours to get your masters degree.
15. What is the academic calendar in which courses are offered?

The ASU academic calendar is displayed at https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar. The MCS program has five sessions a year (Fall A, Fall B, Spring A, Spring B, Summer), with each session being 7.5 weeks.

16. How do I get billed and when I do pay?

Your bill will display in the my.asu.edu portal. The payment deadlines for each session are also displayed at https://students.asu.edu/academic-calendar.

17. Can I transfer from online to on-campus while pursuing my Master of Computer Science degree?

You will need to submit a new application to transfer your credits. If accepted, you can transfer up to 12 credits between programs from online program to the same on-campus program, as long as your grades are “B” or better.

18. Does my degree say online Master of Computer Science?

Your diploma and transcript will not indicate that the degree was completed online. It will appear identically to the diploma and transcript of a student who completes his or her studies on-campus. The onground and online programs have the same courses, same syllabi taught by the same faculty. The degree certificate will say Master of Computer Science.

19. How do ASU students access the alumni network?

More information on the ASU alumni network is available at https://alumni.asu.edu/.

20. Do the MCS courses need to be taken in a specific order?

No. You can take courses in any order. However, you must take at least one Applications, at least one Systems, and at least one Foundations course as part of the graduation requirements. You can pick seven courses from any area.

21. Am I able to get an internship by participating in this program?

Students will need pre-existing work authorization in order to hold an internship. Pre-existing work authorization is based on certain visa categories. See more here: https://asuonline.asu.edu/sites/default/files/immigration_mcs.pdf

22. How do you evaluate international transcripts for minimum GPA?

We have a conversion rubric that we use depending on the country of origin for the transcript. Students should not try to convert their GPA on their application.
23. Can English proficiency be waived off for people with work experience in US?

*If you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident, you do not need to demonstrate English proficiency.*

We require all international applicants from a country whose native language is not English or applicants whose undergraduate degree was not at a U.S institution to provide the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), or Pearson English PTE scores. The MCS program requires a minimum score of 575 (paper-based) or 90 (internet-based) on the TOEFL exam, or a 7 for IELTS, or a 65 for PTE. English proficiency waivers are offered for degrees from certain countries. English proficiency will also be waived if you have completed at least 9 credit hours of graduate course work with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale or higher (all credits must be earned in the U.S. and official transcripts must be mailed to ASU). If you need to take an English proficiency test for your application but are unable to take the TOEFL or IELTS, please contact us toll-free at 1-844-353-7953 or email mcsenrollment@asu.edu for options.

To see a full list of ways to demonstrate English Proficiency, [go here](#).

24. How do I send my English proficiency scores to ASU?

TOEFL scores must be sent from ETS. The ASU institution code is 4007. If department code is required, use 99 for TOEFL.

IELTS scores must be sent from ielts.org. There is no institution code required.

25. Is there a way for international students to pay their tuition by wire transfers if they are unable to pay by a credit card?

ASU has partnered with Flywire to provide a payment option for students to send international payments by wire transfer. See the International Wire Transfer Payments section on this page: [https://students.asu.edu/paymentoptions](https://students.asu.edu/paymentoptions).

26. Are there career services available for international students?

Yes. All students in the MCS program will have access to the [ASU Online Student Support & Services](https://asunet.asu.edu), as well as the [ASU Engineering Career Center](https://career.asu.edu/handshake). Handshake is another option available for students looking to connect with potential employers.

27. Is a three-year undergraduate degree eligible for admission to MCS?

A student must have the equivalent of a four-year bachelor’s degree to be eligible to apply for a graduate program. Students who have a three-year bachelor’s degree can take one year of a master’s degree program in their home country to be equivalent to a four-year bachelor’s degree.

28. Are there financial aid options and scholarships available for the program?

There are limited scholarships available for this program. Learn more here: [https://scholarships.asu.edu/](https://scholarships.asu.edu/).

Financial aid options are also available. Learn more here: [https://students.asu.edu/financialaid/types](https://students.asu.edu/financialaid/types).
29. How can I get transcripts from my undergraduate institution, if my degree was achieved particularly in India or China?

1. Bring the original document into the admissions office in person
   You can bring your original transcripts to the admissions counter in SSV M-F (M 8 am-4 pm, T-F 8 am-5 pm) on the Tempe campus and we will view the document to determine authenticity, make a copy of the original and provide the original back to you.

2. Provide an attestation from the issuing institution or Ministry of Education.
   Usually this is in the form of a copy of the transcript with a stamp indicating it is an attested true copy of the original. The stamp would be the seal of the office doing the attestation along with the signature of the authorizing authority. You can submit this to us once received. It does not need to come directly from the entity doing the attestation.

   NOTE: We don’t accept a notarized copy.

3. Credentials from India and China can be sent to ASU electronically through our parchment feed.
   Applicants from Chinese institutions can request and submit official transcripts directly through CHESICCC. Requests are processed by CHESICCC and will be sent electronically to Arizona State University admissions office. You will not need to submit a paper copy of your transcript. Go here to get started.

   Applicants from institutions in India can request and submit official transcripts directly through TrueCopy Credentials. Requests are processed by Truecopy Credentials and will be sent electronically to the Arizona State University admissions office. You will not need to submit a paper copy of your transcript. Go here to get started. Please note that TrueCopy can take between 2-8 weeks to send transcripts.

**Additional questions**

1. If I know I don't meet admission requirements, should I still submit my application or can I just apply directly to the Pathway?
   You should still submit your application so the admissions team can review your application and provide you feedback and guidance on next steps.

2. Will the credits earned in MasterTrack count towards my Master of Computer Science degree?
   You should still submit your application so the admissions team can review your application and provide you feedback and guidance on next steps.

3. What do I get when I complete of the MasterTrack?
   You will receive a Professional Certification in Big Data from Arizona State University Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering. You will also get 9 credits on an ASU transcript that you can directly apply to your MCS degree, or transfer to another university depending on that university’s transfer rules.