**ASU – Coursera Prospective Student**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**1. What is the Master of Computer Science degree?**

The MCS is a non-thesis degree that requires 30 credit hours of coursework. Students receive lectures through the Coursera platform, but are advised and assessed by ASU faculty and teaching assistants on the rigorous set of assignments, projects, and exams required for university degree credit. Classes are taught in a condensed 7.5 week format.

**2. How long will it take to complete the program?**

Full time students can complete the program within 1.5 years. Part time students can expect to take one course per session with an average completion of 2.5 years (assuming students take the summer sessions off). Completion timeframes will vary based on each student’s enrollment decisions. Students must be enrolled continuously in at least one class during the Fall and Spring semesters to maintain eligibility to participate in the Master of Computer Science degree.

**3. There’s open content available for the program at coursera.org. What is that? How does it work?**

There is an open access version of the course where students can learn foundational concepts for each course in the Master of Computer Science program. The open-access version of the course is on demand and allows students to build specific skills and also prepare for the Master’s Program. The Open Courses provide the lecture and lesson videos of courses, as well as peer and auto graded quizzes and assignments.

Students who decide to enroll in the degree can enjoy the benefit of seeing all of their completed coursework in Open Courses carry over into the degree courses.

**The first three Open Course specializations are:**

- Scalable Data Processing
- Statistical Machine Learning
- Data Visualization

A Coursera Specialization is a series of related courses designed to help you master a specific topic. Some shorter Specializations include as few as three courses and only take a few months to finish. Longer Specializations can include 5 or more courses and take up to 6 months to finish. You can begin a Specialization by enrolling in the entire specialization or a single course in the Specialization. When you finish a Specialization, you get a Specialization Certificate. You’ll also get Course Certificates for each course you complete in a Specialization.
4. I have previously earned graduate credits from other universities. Can I use those credits to apply to Arizona State University’s Master of Computer Science program?

Students may transfer up to 6 credit hours of graduate coursework from outside of ASU or up to 12 credit hours ASU graduate coursework taken within the last three years with the approval of the Graduate College and CIDSE Graduate Program Chair.

5. Are students expected to be proficient in a particular programming language?

Students are expected to be proficient computer programmers to be admitted to any Master of Computer Science program. At the Masters level, students are expected to learn new programming languages on their own as needed, to develop the skill of using the appropriate programming tool to solve a particular problem.

6. Will students enrolled in the Master of Computer Science program be considered ASU students?

Yes. Students accepted into the Master of Computer Science program will be ASU students. You will have ASU ID’s and access to MyASU where they will gain access to your Coursera-hosted classes, the ASU library, ASU email, software, tasks, university announcements and more.

7. I do not have an undergraduate degree in computer science or a related program. Can professional experience replace this?

At this time, no. However, In Spring 2019, ASU will be releasing a performance where students who do not have undergraduate degrees in computer science, software engineering, computer engineering, computer science engineering and math will have an alternate pathway for admission to the program. Details will be announced at the beginning of Spring A 2019.

8. Can students take classes without enrolling in the degree program?

Yes, students can take classes without being accepted into the degree program. They can take either the open (Coursera Specialization) versions of the courses or take the degree versions of the courses if they have been admitted to ASU (with the status “admitted, non-degree-seeking”).

9. Is financial aid available?

Yes. As a fully accredited degree program, students enrolled in the Master of Computer Science students may apply for financial aid. Student eligibility is highly individualized. Arizona State University offers resources to assist both domestic graduate students and international graduate students.

10. Do international students in this program receive an I-20?

There is no requirement for a visa since the program is completely online. As such, no I-20s are issued.