ASU Online
Arizona State University

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. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.
6. 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 pathway 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.

7. Is financial aid available?

Yes. As a fully accredited degree program, students enrolled in the Master of Computer Science 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.

8. 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.

9. When will courses be available to students?

The program will offer opportunities for new students to start at the beginning of ASU’s Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. Classes follow Arizona State University’s academic calendar. Students may start the program at the beginning of the Fall, Spring or Summer semesters. Classes are offered in a condensed 7.5 week format during Fall and Spring semesters that students typically take during the first half of each semester (the A Session) and the second half of each semester (the B Session). Summer classes are offered on a C session, which lasts 8 weeks.

10. Will students be able to reach out to faculty for help on concepts they have questions about?

Yes, faculty from within the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering will facilitate the courses. Students in the ASU credit-bearing courses will be able to email faculty and/or attend virtual office hours, which will be held periodically through the academic term.

11. How do Arizona State University and Coursera work together to deliver the Master of Computer Science?

The Master of Computer Science is offered by the School of Computing, Informatics & Decision Systems Engineering (CIDSE) within the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering at Arizona State University, which is recognized by U.S. News and World Report for its nationally-ranked online graduate engineering programs.

Students within the MCS program enroll in courses through Arizona State University, complete all courses on the Coursera platform using integrated learning tools and an exam proctoring service, and see their final grades posted in their My ASU dashboard.
12. Do deficiencies need to be taken from ASU?
Prerequisites/deficiencies do not need to be taken from ASU. We will be announcing an option for students to complete any identified deficiencies in August 2018 for the Spring 2019 start session.

13. Can work experience help bypass prerequisite courses?
Not at this time. In the Spring 2019 however, we hope to have a performance pathway available where a candidate will be able to demonstrate their proficiency of specific topics through a test offered by ETS. We plan to announce details on the program page in the coming months:
asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/computer-science-mcs

14. Do you have any credits for people having good amount of work experience in IT?
No, we do not offer academic credit for work experience in the field.

15. What is the total cost of the degree program?
The total cost of this degree will be $15,000, or $1,500 per 3-credit course. There are no textbooks required for the courses.

16. Do I have to pay for the entire degree upfront?
You only have to pay for the courses you are enrolled in. There is also a payment plan available at students.asu.edu/paymentplan

17. Can completing Coursera coursework satisfy deficiencies?
Completing Coursera courses alone does not waive a deficiency, but completing the course and working through the material can be an excellent way to prepare for the ETS test, which determines if there are topics a student is deficient in. Certain ETS test scores will satisfy deficiencies. More details on the ETS test will be available for Spring 2019.

18. 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. You must be registered in Arizona State University credit-bearing coursework to earn graduate credit.

19. Can I select a concentration within my MCS degree?
The MCS degree does not currently provide concentrations online. As part of the program offering, you can select courses in an area of interest like Big Data, AI, Cybersecurity, etc.
20. How much time can I expect to spend per week on classes, projects, and assignments?

Arizona State University recommends 3 hours of study for every hour spent in class.

Full-time students enrolled in 9 credit hours per semester will spend an average of 25-27 hours of study time each week. Part-time students enrolled in 6 credit hours per semester will spend an average of 20 hours of study time.

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).

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

As of now, no. However in the future, a student may be able to complete the program in an accelerated fashion.

22. Can you provide a link to where I can apply as a non-degree student?

We plan to announce details on the program page in the coming months:

asuonline.asu.edu/online-degree-programs/graduate/computer-science-mcs

23. Are letters of recommendation required for admission?

No, letters of recommendation are optional.

24. Can I transfer from online to pursue a computer science Master’s degree on-campus?

You can transfer up to 12 credits between programs (from online program to the same on-campus program, for example) at ASU, as long as the grades are “B” or better. A submission of a new application will be required to facilitate this process.

25. 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.
International Students

26. Am I able to get an internship by participating in this program?
Curricular Practical Training (CPT) is a benefit tied into an F1 visa status only. As such, 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: asuonline.asu.edu/sites/default/files/immigration_mcs.pdf

27. 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.

28. Can English proficiency be waived off for people with work experience in US?
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) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores. The MCS program use as 575 (paper-based) or 90 (internet-based) TOEFL or 7 for IELTS as minimum expectations for admission.

You can learn more here: international.asu.edu/graduate/proficiency

29. 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: students.asu.edu/paymentoptions

30. Are there career services available for international students?
Yes. All students in the MCS program will have access to the standard ASU Online Student Support & Services, as well as the ASU Engineering Career Center.

31. 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 program in their home country to be equivalent to a bachelor’s degree.

Are there scholarships available for the program?
The cost of the online degree has been lowered to make it affordable. There are limited scholarships available at scholarships.asu.edu.
32. How can I get transcripts from my undergraduate institution, if my degree was achieved particularly in India or China?

1. For countries where only one original document is issued (such as India), the student can:
   - Mail us the original with a SASE and note to return the copy to them. We will make a copy of the original and return. We only recommend this as last resort
   - For students in AZ, they can bring their original doc to the admissions counter in SSV M-F (M 8-4, T-F 8-5) on Tempe campus and we will view the document to determine authenticity, make a copy of the original and provide the original back to the student.
   - For students in India, they can mail Poonam, our admissions team member in India, who can review the doc and make a copy and stamp as official.

   https://international.asu.edu/undergrad
   Mumbai Bandra Kurla Complex - Kalina
   Level 2 Raheja Centre Point 294 CST Road Near Mumbai University, Off Bandra-Kurla Complex,
   Mumbai, 400 098
   T: +91 22 67078700
   ATTN: Poonam Venkatesh

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 CHESICC. Requests are processed by CHESICC 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.