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.