

# Computer Science

Master of Computer Science (M.C.S.)



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
ONLINE

## Overview

Today's tech-dependent world is ripe with opportunities for those who have in-depth computer science knowledge. Rising software development needs across industries, a growing emphasis on cyber security, and an increase in cloud computing systems are just a few examples of trends driving demand for qualified experts with an advanced computer science education.

At CSU, faculty research and expertise include:

- Databases
- Software engineering
- Artificial intelligence
- Security and information assurance
- Networking
- Parallel computing
- Bioinformatics
- Machine learning

The CSU Computer Science Department supports high-quality research and encourages independent thinking and initiative.

## Curriculum

### Course Topics

Online courses follow a schedule that is parallel to courses offered on campus and feature our faculty's expertise as they work through real-world, relevant problems.

- Object-Oriented Design
- Artificial Intelligence
- Computer Networks and the Internet
- Parallel Programming
- Software Product and Process Evaluation
- Database Management Systems
- Machine Learning
- Foundations of Fine-Grain Parallelism
- Computer Architecture
- Software Specification and Design
- Fault-Tolerant Computing
- Computer Security
- Advanced Networking
- Parallel Processing
- Software Testing and Analysis

## Delivery

Online

## Credits

35 credits

## Tuition

\$696 per credit; financial aid is available

- Includes [Student Services](#)
- [Fees](#) assessed separately
- [Financial aid](#) is available; eligibility determined on an individual basis

## Time frame

Can be completed in 2 years

## Completion requirements

- A minimum of 35 semester credits; 20 of which must be earned at the 500-level or above.
- 24 of those credits must be earned at Colorado State University, 21 of which must be earned after formal admission.

## More info

[online.colostate.edu/degrees/computer-science](https://online.colostate.edu/degrees/computer-science)

## Contact

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# How to Apply

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## Application Deadlines

### Fall semester

Pre-Application Deadline: **May 1**

Graduate School Application Deadline: **July 1**

(Application should be submitted after departmental recommendation)

### Spring semester

Pre-Application Deadline: **October 1**

Graduate School Application Deadline: **November 1**

(Application should be submitted after departmental recommendation)

## 1 Review Admission Requirements

- A bachelor's degree equivalent to a 4-year degree from a United States regionally accredited institution.
- Students entering the master's program are expected to be fluent in an object-oriented language (e.g., Java or C++). This preparation consists in possessing at least the following:
  - » An understanding of computer organization/architecture, data structures and algorithms, program/software design methodology, theoretical foundations, and operating systems design concepts.
  - » A working knowledge of calculus, linear algebra, introductory probability, applied statistics, and discrete structures.
  - » An overall GPA of at least 3.0 out of 4.0, and a GPA of at least 3.2 in computer science and mathematics course work.

## 2

- GRE test scores are required for international applicants only.
- A 3.0 GPA on all undergraduate coursework and a GPA of at least 3.2 in Computer Science and Mathematics coursework.

## Submit Pre-Application

Gather all of the following materials and complete the [Computer Science Department Pre-Application](#). All electronic uploads must be an Acrobat PDF document (.pdf). Please make sure the file has the appropriate three letter extension in the file name.

- **Letters of Recommendation**

- **Resume**

- **Statement of Purpose**

- **Test Results**

GRE score are optional for domestic students. If you choose to submit GRE scores, they must be reported as percentages (not raw scores). If you do not submit GRE scores, enter zeros for all GRE components. All international applicants from countries where English is not the primary language must supply English proficiency score reports (TOEFL or IELTS). Screen-shots of test scores from testing company web sites are acceptable.

*International MCS Applicants:* If you do not have a transcript from a college or university located in the USA, you must submit GRE scores. A minimum of 75th percentile on the quantitative section is required for your application to be considered.

- **TOEFL/IELTS (if applicable)**

DO NOT send your pre-application material also by email or regular mail. If you are recommended for admission, official copies of your transcripts and test score reports will be required as part of the formal application process.

# How to Apply (Continued)

After you submit the pre-application materials, the Computer Science Graduate Admissions Committee will review your file to determine if you are formally recommended to apply for admission. If you are recommended to apply for admission, move on to Step 3.

## 3 Complete Online Application

Complete the [online graduate application](#) and pay the nonrefundable application processing fee (payable online). Because you submitted most of your application materials as part of the prescreening process, you only need to submit official transcripts and test scores (as applicable) to complete your formal application. You do not need to wait for your transcripts and scores to move your application forward.

- Select “Computer Science MCS - Distance” when choosing the program of study.

## 4 Request Transcripts

Request one official transcript of all collegiate work completed from every institution attended, whether or not you received a degree from those institutions. Transcripts from Colorado State University are not required. Official transcripts can either be mailed in or sent as e-transcripts.

Send e-transcripts to: [gradadmissions@colostate.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@colostate.edu)

Send paper copies to:  
Graduate Admissions  
Colorado State University – Office of Admissions  
1062 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1062

## 5 Submit Test Scores (Recommended)

GRE test scores are not required, but may be submitted if you feel these will strengthen your application. Submit official GRE General Test scores through the Educational Testing Service (select institution code: 4075, leave the department code blank). Scores are typically received by the University 4-6 weeks after your testing date.

- All three sections — verbal, quantitative, and analytical — must be submitted. Photocopies are not accepted.
- CSU graduates do not, generally, need to take the GRE. If you think it will strengthen your application, though, we recommend you do take it.
- A [GRE Preparation course](#) is available face-to-face and online through CSU.

## Check Your Application Status

View your [graduate application status](#) at any time to ensure your application checklist is complete or to check on updates. Once your complete application, including supporting materials, is received, the department admission committee will review your application and promptly notify you of their decision.

## International Students

See [website](#) for test score and transcript requirements.