Spring MS Student Orientation 2019

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Overview

• Advising
  • Advisors, Funding, Terminal/Research MS

• Department Life
  • Buildings/offices, Talks and seminars, Careers

• Courses
  • Requirements, Core Courses, Planning your schedule
Your academic advisor

• All MS students have Mark Corner (me) as their advisor
  • I currently advise 394 students
• To make an appointment, email me: mcorner@cs.umass.edu
• Eileen Hamel can answer questions as well: ehamel@cs.umass.edu
Professional vs. Research Track

**Professional MS ("Terminal MS")**
- Stop after receiving MS degree
- Take more 500-level courses
- Focus on coursework

**Research Track MS**
- Intend to complete a PhD after the MS
- Take more 600-level courses
- Focus on research opportunities
**Funding**

**Available to you**

- “Grader” Positions
- Hourly Positions
  - Check **Handshake**
  - Check UMass Job Board
- Fellowships
  - Harder to find for MS-only students, but they exist

**NOT available to you**

- Assistantships
- TA Positions
- RA Positions
Spaces to know

• CICS Building
  • Main office
  • Eileen’s office
  • Professors’ offices

• Lederle Graduate Research Center (LGRC lowrise)
  • Professors’ offices
  • Masters student space – A208
Research talks

• Usually there is at least one per week

• Find more information on the CICS Events page

• Look out for seminars about graduate student life and professionalism
Careers and Internships

• Director of CICS Careers: Brian Krusell, office: LGRC A243

• Tech Jobs & Internships Fair: Sept 27 in the Campus Center

• [www.cics.umass.edu/careers](http://www.cics.umass.edu/careers)
Internship using CPT- International Students Only

- We encourage you to do a CPT over the summer
- You **must** have completed 2 semesters at UMass before beginning a CPT
- You **must** be enrolled full time if you are doing a CPT during the fall or spring semester. (limited to one online course per semester)
  - And be physically present here
Requirements for the MS degree

• 30 credits of coursework at the 500+ level

• 4 core classes

• **At least 12 non-independent study credits at the 600+ level**

• No more than 9 credits outside of CMPSCI (CICS and INFOSEC are outside)

• Need a C or better in all classes, B or better in core classes

• Overall GPA of 3.0 or better in the 30 credits you use to graduate
Core classes

• Must take one from each area
  • AI
  • Systems
  • Theory

• Plus one more from any area
Placing out of core requirements

- Sometimes you can place out of a core
  - We do not want you to repeat *graduate* work you have already
- Speak to the professor teaching the course
- Placing out does *not* give you transcript credits
Possible coursework plan (two years)

• First year, fall
  • 9 credits: One core and two non-cores

• First year, spring
  • 9 credits: Two cores (different areas) and one non-core

• Second year, fall
  • 9 credits: One core and two non-cores

• Second year, spring (students often try to avoid this using a summer course)
  • 3 credits: one non-core
  • You’re probably looking for a job

• We recommend spreading out your core courses
Independent Study and Projects

• Optional

• 696: Independent Study (requires one reader)
  • 3 credits, can do twice

• 701: Master’s project (requires two readers)
  • 6 credits taken in one semester, work is typically spread out over two
  • does not count as an independent study, so you can use for 600-level course

• We do not have a MS Thesis option
Registering for classes

• If you have not done so yet, register for classes ASAP
  • http://spire.umass.edu

• Many classes are full at this point – use the waitlist

• Please register for enough credits that you are NOT on the waitlist for
Academic Honesty

• Academic honesty is expected and required.

• In coursework, everything you hand in must be your own work. Do not collaborate if collaboration is not permitted.

• In research, everything you write or present must be yours or your collaborators’ and/or be appropriately cited.

• Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated.

• The University has policies for academic honesty and research misconduct.