**Accelerated BS-MS Program in Computer Science**

**Information for Students
(Last updated 09.21.2015)**

**What is it?**

The Accelerated BS-MS program enables students to complete Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Computer Science in a shorter amount of time (potentially 5 years total from entering as freshmen to obtaining a master’s degree).

**How can it be done?**

Students admitted to this program are allowed to take a maximum of 9 credit hours that count towards both their Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Computer Science (double-dipping), thus saving at least one semester of time. Furthermore, they will be allowed to start taking graduate level courses while working towards their bachelor’s degree. Combining both factors will enable students to earn their Master’s degree earlier.

**What courses can I use?**

The following 3 courses are recommended for double-dipping purposes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Graduate course | Substituted for corresponding UG course |
| COMP 7212 Operating and Distributed Systems | COMP 4270 Operating Systems |
| COMP 7612 Foundations of Computing | COMP 4601 Models of Computation |
| COMP 7712 Algorithms and Problem Solving | COMP 4030 Design and Analysis of Algorithms |

COMP 7212 and 7712 are typically offered in the Fall, while COMP 7612 is typically offered in the Spring.

**What if I’ve already taken one or more of these recommended courses at the undergraduate level?**

If you have already taken any (or all) of the above 4000-level courses, you will need to talk to your advisor to set up an agreeable plan of which three courses you can use in your program. The general guidelines are as follows:

* You can use a 7000-level COMP course (that is counted towards the Master’s degree) to satisfy an elective requirement for your undergraduate program.
* You can use a 4000-level COMP *elective* course (that is counted towards the Bachelor’s degree) at 6000-level to satisfy an elective requirement for the Master’s degree. (Note that you CANNOT take a 4000-level *required* course at the 6000-level to satisfy the Master’s degree requirement.)
* The exception is COMP 4081 (Software Engineering). You must take this course, and you cannot use the graduate course COMP 7012 (Foundations of Software Engineering) to substitute for it.

Do remember that your advisor’s approval is a must for your plan of study and subsequent changes (if any)!

**How do graduate courses affect my GPA?**

Short answer: they do not. Although they are used to satisfy undergraduate degree requirements, the graduate courses will \*not\* be included in your undergraduate GPA calculation.

**What are the requirements for entry?**

The minimum requirements for admission are:

* Completion of COMP 1900, COMP 2150, COMP 2700, and at least two upper-division COMP courses by the end of the semester of application
* Overall GPA of 3.0 or higher
* GPA of 3.6 or higher for COMP courses

**How do I apply?**

* Complete the application form located at <http://www.memphis.edu/cs/programs/accelerated_program.php>. Submit the completed form, along with a copy of your most recent transcript, to the Computer Science department office.
* Have your references submit their letters directly to the department office, as directed on the application form.
* You may be asked to complete an interview with the Computer Science graduate coordinator.

**What do I need to do after admission?**

You will need to work with your academic advisor to come up with a plan of study for completion of your undergraduate degree (it can be changed) and to determine which courses you will use to double-dip for the degree.

You should also start to explore research possibilities. Since one of the requirements for the Master’s degree is a project/thesis which involves some research, it is a good idea for you to start talking to faculty to explore your interests and decide which area you want to pursue. Your academic advisor will give you some pointers, but you are NOT required to work with him/her for your Master’s project/thesis.

**How about applying for graduate school?**

Although applying to the U of M’s Graduate School is not required to be admitted to the accelerated program, you \*will\* need to apply to the Graduate School to continue your Master’s coursework once you complete your Bachelor’s degree. Application to the Graduate School is typically done by the semester you complete your requirements for the Bachelor’s degree.

You will follow the standard procedure for applying to graduate school. Go to the admissions office’s website (<http://www.memphis.edu/admissions/>) and follow the procedure there. As long as you maintain satisfactory performance in your courses, we will waive the GRE requirement (see the next question).

**Do I need to take the GRE when applying to grad school?**

As long as you maintain an overall GPA of 3.0 and a COMP GPA of 3.6 in your undergraduate coursework, we will waive your GRE requirement. Failing that, we may require you to take the GRE. Contact your advisor by the semester you apply for advice.