

Master's Degree Program Guide



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The contents herein are not official policy of The University of Texas at Arlington or of The University of Texas System. In all matters, the Rules and Regulations of the Regents of The University of Texas System, The Handbook of Operating Procedures of The University of Texas at Arlington, and the Graduate Catalog of The University of Texas at Arlington shall supersede the content of this guide. Please see catalog.uta.edu for more information.

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PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This guide will answer most of the common questions asked about the master's degree programs offered by the Computer Science and Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Arlington. It supplements the UTA Graduate Catalog with specific information about the program. Nothing in this guide is intended to conflict with information in the UTA Catalog.

All students are expected to be familiar with the information presented in this guide before seeking advice from the Graduate Advisor. All students should check their UTA email account frequently as advising related information will be sent to that address.

For the rest of this guide, The University of Texas at Arlington will be referred to as UTA and Computer Science and Engineering will be referred to as CSE.

GRADUATE ADVISOR

A CSE Graduate Advisor will serve as the point of contact to answer questions and help resolve academic issues regarding the CSE graduate degree requirements, policies, and procedures.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

The student is responsible for seeking academic advice, for enrolling in appropriate courses to insure progress toward a degree, for timely completion of his or her academic program, for familiarity with the appropriate catalog, and for maintaining University standards. Assistance from an academic advisor is not a substitute for the personal responsibility of the student. More details can be found at <http://catalog.uta.edu/academicregulations/studentresponsibility/>

MASTER'S PROGRAM GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Entrance Requirements

To begin a graduate degree program, an applicant must submit a completed application and fee to the UTA Graduate Admissions Office. In addition, the applicant must request that Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores and official transcripts of all work beyond high school be sent directly to the Graduate Admissions Office. When all application materials have all been collected by Graduate Admissions, the information is forwarded to the CSE department for evaluation. The CSE department's decision is then communicated to Graduate Admissions with the final decision being sent via email from Graduate Admissions to the applicant.

If there is a delay in receiving materials, the application may be deferred until all required materials are available. The applicant is notified of the deferral by the Graduate Admissions Office via email.

Admission to CSE master's programs is based on the applicant's perceived ability to successfully complete graduate work in computer science as shown by the applicant's test scores and transcripts. Students who do not have a sufficient background in computer science, but meet the other admission criteria, may be admitted to the master's programs on a probationary basis pending completion of specified leveling courses.

Present departmental requirements for the master's programs include:

1. An undergraduate degree, preferably in an area related to computer science, computer engineering, or software engineering.
2. A 3.2 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) in the last two years of undergraduate coursework. In particular, overall performance in the Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Software Engineering Foundation courses is emphasized.
3. Relevance of the student's previous degree(s) to the CSE curriculum.

4. Rigor of the student's bachelor's degree. A three-year degree is not considered sufficiently rigorous. International applicants with a "3+2" Master's degree will be evaluated as equivalent to a 4-year Bachelor's degree.
5. Reputation of the University/College from which the student has received his/her previous degrees.
6. A sum of verbal plus quantitative scores of at least 305 on the GRE. Including:
 - a. GRE quantitative score of at least 160
 - b. GRE verbal score of at least 145
7. SE and CS Students may be accepted with only three of the six required foundation courses but may be required to complete a leveling course as part of their MS degree. CpE students may also be accepted with only three of the five required foundation courses but may be required to complete a leveling course.
8. International applicants and applicants whose native language is not English will need to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam, or the Duolingo exam.
 - a. TOEFL
 - i. Overall score of at least 83, with no area score of less than 20 (previous scoring system)
 - ii. Overall and area scores of at least 4 (current scoring system)
 - b. IELTS
 - i. Area scores of at least 6.5
 - c. Duolingo
 - i. Score of at least 105

Applications with significant mathematics deficiencies may be deferred/denied pending completion of required courses as determined by the CSE department.

For master's applications, only the following are required: application, fee, transcripts from all higher education institutions attended, and test scores. Test scores include GRE scores, and for those whose native language is not English, TOEFL or IELTS or Duolingo scores. CSE also accepts Duolingo scores but encourages students to take the TOEFL or IELTS test if they wish to seek possible departmental funding or scholarships. The CSE department neither requires nor reviews letters of recommendation, statements of purpose, or any other supplemental materials from master's degree applicants. Applicants may write Graduate Admissions at utagradadmissions@uta.edu with any English proficiency questions.

An applicant who does not achieve the stated English proficiency standards may be required to take the Graduate English Skills Program (GESP) qualifying exam upon arrival at UTA to determine the need for additional English language courses after admission. Students whose native language is not English cannot be appointed to teaching assistantship (GTA) duties or have any teaching responsibility without a qualifying score on an accepted English proficiency test or successful completion of assigned GESp requirements.

Facilitated Admission

UTA undergraduate CSE students interested in continuing into the CSE master's program who have a GPA of at least 3.5 should contact a graduate advisor regarding Facilitated Admission. More information on Facilitated Admission is available upon request to CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu.

International Student Admission

Applicants to CSE must have earned an appropriate degree to indicate that they are academically prepared and qualified to begin graduate studies. International applicants to CSE must have earned a degree equivalent to an accredited US university bachelor's degree. Three-year degrees are not accepted, but a "3+2" master's degree will be evaluated as equivalent to a 4-year bachelor's degree.

Please note some international students may not have to show proof of English proficiency for admission.

Students should contact UTA Graduate Admissions at utagradadmissions@uta.edu if they have questions about English proficiency requirements.

If English proficiency test scores are required, the applicant can satisfy the requirement by taking the TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo English proficiency exam and obtaining the appropriate scores for admission purposes. The CSE standard for the TOEFL (using the old 120-point scoring system) is a score of at least 83 overall, with a score of at least 20 in each individual TOEFL evaluation area. The CSE standard for the TOEFL (using the new 6-point scoring system) is a score of at least 4 overall. For those who take the IELTS test, a score of at least 6.5 in all areas is required. For the Duolingo exam, CSE requires a total score of at least 105. An applicant who does not meet these requirements may have to participate in the Graduate English Skills Program (GESP).

Students whose native language is not English cannot be appointed to teaching assistantship duties (GTA) or have any teaching responsibility without either a US bachelor's degree or a qualifying score on the TOEFL or IELTS test. The Duolingo test does not satisfy the English proficiency requirement for a GTA positions.

Full Time Enrollment

Full time enrollment is 9 hours for Fall, Spring terms, and 6 hours in Summer terms. US Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents are not required to be enrolled full time, but other factors may require full-time enrollment such as financial aid agreements, etc. International students must be enrolled full-time during every Fall and Spring term. If an international student is graduating and needs only 3 or 6 hours of coursework to complete their degree in a Fall or Spring term, the student must register for the needed courses and submit the Full Time Waiver form to the Office of International Education.

Course Numbering

UTA courses are numbered with a four-digit course number followed by a three-digit section number. Courses with numbers in the 1000s, 2000s, 3000s, and 4000s are undergraduate courses. Graduate level classes are those numbered in the 5000s and 6000s. There is one 7000 level class, but it is exclusively for PhD students.

The first digit of the course number designates the level of the course. The second digit of the course is the number of credit hours the course provides. For example, CSE 5311 is a 5000-level graduate course that counts for 3 hours of coursework. The section number of the course is what designates that course's particular time slot or professor, etc. If there are multiple sections of a course and a student wants to take the course at a particular time or with a particular professor, the student needs to know the section number of the course to register properly (i.e., CSE 5311-003).

Degrees and Degree Requirements

Students with an undergraduate degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, or a degree from a directly related field, or who have completed the foundation courses specified in the Foundation Courses section of this guide may select a program leading to one of the following three degrees:

- a) Master of Science in Computer Science (MS CS)
- b) Master of Science in Computer Engineering (MS CpE)
- c) Master of Software Engineering (M SE)

Students are typically governed by the catalog for the Academic Year (AY) under which they were initially enrolled or, at a student's request, the catalog of any subsequent year in which that student was in residence. Requests to change catalog AY should be directed to CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu. Please note that a change in AY means that the student must adhere to all policies, procedures, and requirements of the new catalog.

MS CS, MS CpE, and M SE Non-Thesis Degree Plans

Prior to the Fall 2026 term, all CSE master's students were admitted under the CSE 36-hour non-thesis degree plan by default. Beginning in the Fall 2026 term, all CSE master's students are admitted under the CSE 30-hour non-thesis degree plan by default.

MS CS and MS CpE Thesis Degree Plans

Students on either the MS CS or MS CpE thesis degree plan must complete 30 semester hours of graduate coursework made up of 24 hours of coursework and 6 hours of thesis. The 6 hours of thesis (CSE 5698) is one course that must be taken in the semester that the student defends. It cannot be taken across multiple semesters. The thesis must be defended orally in front of the students' supervising committee and sometimes other members of the university community. The finalized thesis document must be submitted to the UTA Central Library for archiving.

The thesis plan requires courses as well as in-depth research of particular subject and the completion of a thesis document. The thesis plan is the preferred option when a student wants to continue into PhD studies. A thesis typically takes at least two semesters to complete.

If a student wants to switch to the thesis plan, they must first find a professor willing to be their thesis supervisor. When such an agreement is reached, the professor needs to email CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu alerting the advisors of the decision. Upon receipt of the professor's email, an advisor will change the student to the thesis degree plan. Thesis students should also select their coursework that fulfills the degree plan but also in consultation with their supervising professor.

General Degree Requirements for all MS degrees

1. Only courses with earned grades of C or better can be used to satisfy degree requirements. No graduate level course in which the final grade was D or F may be used to satisfy a degree requirement. Courses in which a student earned a C, D, or F might be eligible for grade forgiveness under the Graduate Grade Forgiveness policy found in the UTA catalog.
2. Students must maintain a cumulative and major GPA of at least 3.0 in all coursework.
3. Grades in all courses count in the student's UTA cumulative GPA unless a course is repeated and grade forgiveness is applied.

Foundation Courses

A student entering a CSE master's program is required to have undergraduate preparation equivalent to a bachelor's degree in Computer Science (CS), Computer Engineering (CpE), or Software Engineering (SE), including at least four semesters of specified math courses. CS and SE students without the proper academic background, as determined by the graduate advisor at the time of the admission review, may be required to complete a leveling course. CpE students without the proper academic background, as determined by the graduate advisor at the time of the admission review, may be required to complete a leveling course. Leveling courses can be used as breadth or elective courses.

Students requesting a change between CSE degree plans in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Software Engineering are required to have completed the foundation courses specified below.

Required foundation courses for Computer Science and Software Engineering are:

1. C Programming (CSE 1320)
2. Computer Organization (CSE 2312)

3. Discrete Structures (CSE 2315). Please note that even though you may have taken "advanced" mathematics for an engineering degree, it is our experience that non-CS students have minimal exposure to the topics in this course.
4. Theoretical Computer Science (CSE 3315)
5. Algorithms & Data Structures (CSE 3318)
6. Operating Systems (CSE 3320)

Required foundation courses for Computer Engineering are:

1. C Programming (CSE 1320)
2. Computer Organization (CSE 2312)
3. Circuits and Systems (CSE 2440)
4. Digital Logic Design (CSE 2441)
5. Embedded Systems I (CSE 3442) or Introduction to Computer Engineering (CSE 5400)

The following courses constitute the mathematics requirements¹:

1. Calculus I (MATH 1426)
2. Calculus II (MATH 2425)
3. Linear Algebra (MATH 3330)
4. Probability and Statistics (MATH 3313), or Engineering Probability (IE 3301)

¹ Applicants missing a full-semester course equivalent to any of the four specified mathematics courses may be deferred until those courses are completed. Most applicants with an engineering or science background tend to satisfy the mathematics requirements.

Core Courses

All CS master's students are required to take:

CSE 5311: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

And one of the following courses:

CSE 5301: Data Analysis and Modeling Techniques

CSE 5306: Distributed Systems

CSE 5317: Design and Construction of Compilers

CSE 5350: Computer Architecture II

CSE 5351: Parallel Processing

All SE master's students that are following the 2025-2026 catalog and prior are required to take:

CSE 5311: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

CSE 5324: Software Engineering I

CSE 5325: Software Engineering II

All SE master's students that are following the 2026-2027 catalog and forward are required to take:

CSE 5311: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

CSE 5321: Software Testing

CSE 5322: Software Design Patterns

All CpE master's students following the 2025-2026 catalog and prior are required to take two of the following courses:

CSE 5301: Data Analysis and Modeling Techniques

CSE 5306: Distributed Systems

CSE 5311: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

CSE 5317: Design and Construction of Compilers

CSE 5342: Embedded Systems II

CSE 5350: Computer Architecture II

CSE 5351: Parallel Processing

CSE 5354: Real-time Operating Systems (or CSE 6351 when cross-listed)

All CpE master's students following the 2026-2027 catalog and forward are required to take:

CSE 5342: Embedded Systems II

CSE 5350: Computer Architecture II

CSE 5357: Advanced Digital Logic Design

Breadth Courses

Breadth courses are defined as any graduate level CSE course that is not used in a student's specialty field of study. These courses are intended to broaden the student's degree plan into areas beyond the specific focus of the specialty tracks. Breadth courses cannot be from the same specialty area as the students' chosen specialties, nor can they be from the same specialty area as each other.

Taking Courses Outside of CSE

Many CSE master's degree students are allowed to take one course from an approved list from outside of the CSE department and use it toward their degree. Please check the CSE Info [Site](#) for the latest list of approved courses, as well as other regulations and procedures. For non-thesis students, the approved course can count for a breadth requirement. For thesis students, the course can count for an elective requirement, but only with consent from their supervising professor.

Elective Courses for Thesis Option Students Only

Thesis degree plan elective courses can be any graduate-level course, in any area that is directly related to the degree program or thesis research with consent of their thesis supervisor only.

Computer Science Specialty Area Requirements

Master's Computer Science degrees require the completion of "specialty areas". A "specialty area" is defined as a sequence of three courses, with at least one 6000-level course in a specific subject area. The specialty requirements are as follows:

- Thesis students must choose one specialty area and complete the corresponding courses
- Non-thesis students must choose two specialty areas and complete the corresponding courses

Some courses are listed in multiple specialty areas. Students who take such courses must choose which specialty area they want to use the course under. A single course cannot be used to fulfill multiple degree requirements.

NOTE: Prior to Fall 2026, Computer Engineering students utilized this list when choosing their specialty areas. Beginning in Fall 2026, Computer Engineering students will be required to choose from three different specialty areas. See page 11 of this guide for more details. If you have questions about which specialty area list you should be using, please contact CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu.

The current specialty areas and associated courses are listed below. Not all the courses listed are taught each semester. Students are advised to review course listings as soon as the semester schedule is released to determine courses available in their chosen specialty areas.

Please note that special topics courses (e.g., CSE 5392, CSE 6392) may vary which specialty area it falls under based on the section or semester that the course was taken. If you have questions about what specialty

area a special topics course falls under, please email CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu.

Big Data Management/Databases/Cloud Computing:

- CSE 5330 - Database Systems
- CSE 5331 - DBMS Models and Implementation Techniques
- CSE 5333 - Cloud Computing
- CSE 5334 - Data Mining
- CSE 5335 - Web Data Management
- CSE 5339 - Special Topics in Database Systems
- CSE 5362 - Social Networks and Search Engines
- CSE 6331 - Advanced Topics in Database System
- CSE 6332 - Cloud Computing and Big Data
- CSE 6339 - Special Topics in Advanced Database Systems
- CSE 6363 - Machine Learning

Embedded Systems:

- CSE 5342 - Embedded Systems II
- CSE 5352 - IoT and Networking
- CSE 5354 - Real-time Operating Systems
- CSE 5355 - Electromechanical Systems and Sensors
- CSE 5356 - System on Chip (SoC) Design
- CSE 5357 - Advanced Digital Logic Design
- CSE 5358 - Microprocessor Systems
- CSE 5372 - RISC Processor Design
- CSE 5373 - General Purpose GPU Programming
- CSE 6351 - Advanced Topics in Computer Engineering
- CSE 6353 - Computer Engineering System Design

Imaging/Health Informatics/Bioinformatics:

- CSE 5348 - Multimedia Systems
- CSE 5365 - Computer Graphics
- CSE 5366 - Digital Signal Processing
- CSE 5370 - Bioinformatics
- CSE 5379 - Special Topics in Bioinformatics
- CSE 5389 - Special Topics in Multimedia, Graphics, and Image Processing
- CSE 6366 - Digital Image Processing
- CSE 6367 - Computer Vision
- CSE 6379 - Advanced Special Topics in Bioinformatics
- CSE 6389 - Special Topics in Advanced Multimedia, Graphics, and Image Processing

Intelligent Systems/Robotics:

- CSE 5301 - Data Analysis and Modeling Techniques
- CSE 5334 - Data Mining
- CSE 5355 - Electromechanical Systems and Sensors
- CSE 5360 - Artificial Intelligence I
- CSE 5361 - Artificial Intelligence II
- CSE 5362 - Social Networks and Search Engines
- CSE 5364 - Robotics
- CSE 5365 - Computer Graphics
- CSE 5367 - Pattern Recognition
- CSE 5368 - Neural Networks
- CSE 5369 - Special Topics in Intelligent Systems
- CSE 5383 - Introduction to Unmanned Vehicle Systems

CSE 5384 - Unmanned Vehicle System Development
CSE 6363 - Machine Learning
CSE 6366 - Digital Image Processing
CSE 6367 - Computer Vision
CSE 6369 - Special Topics in Advanced Intelligent Systems

Networks/loT/Communications:

CSE 5344 - Computer Networks
CSE 5345 - Fundamentals of Wireless Networks
CSE 5346 - Networks II
CSE 5347 - Fundamentals of Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Technologies
CSE 5349 - Special Topics in Networking
CSE 5352 - loT and Networking
CSE 5366 - Digital Signal Processing
CSE 5376 - Digital Communication Systems
CSE 5377 - Wireless Communication Systems
CSE 6344 - Advanced Topics in Communication Networks
CSE 6345 - Pervasive Computing & Communications
CSE 6347 - Advanced Wireless Networks & Mobile Computing
CSE 6348 - Advances in Sensor Networks
CSE 6349 - Special Topics in Advanced Networking
CSE 6350 - Advanced Topics in Computer Architecture
CSE 6388 - Advanced Information Security

Security/Privacy:

CSE 5380 - Information Security I
CSE 5381 - Information Security II
CSE 5382 - Secure Programming
CSE 5388 - Special Topics in Information Security
CSE 6348 - Advances in Sensor Networks
CSE 6350 - Advanced Topics in Computer Architecture
CSE 6388 - Advanced Special Topics in Information Security
CSE 6389 - Special Topics in Advanced Multimedia, Graphics, & Image Processing

Software Engineering:

CSE 5320 - Special Topics in Software Engineering
CSE 5321 - Software Testing
CSE 5322 - Software Design Patterns
CSE 5323 - Software Engineering Processes
CSE 5324 - Software Engineering: Analysis, Design, and Testing
CSE 5325 - Software Engineering: Management, Maintenance, and Quality Assurance
CSE 5326 - Real-Time Software Design
CSE 5327 - Telecommunications Software Development
CSE 5328 - Software Engineering Team Project I
CSE 5329 - Software Engineering Team Project II
CSE 5335 - Web Data Management
CSE 5382 - Secure Programming
CSE 6321 - Advanced Automation Testing
CSE 6323 - Agile Software Development
CSE 6324 - Advanced Topics in Software Engineering
CSE 6329 - Special Topics in Advanced Software Engineering
CSE 6332 - Cloud Computing and Big Data

Systems/Architecture/Languages:

CSE 5306 - Distributed Systems
CSE 5307 – Programming Language Concepts
CSE 5317 - Design and Construction of Compilers
CSE 5333 - Cloud Computing
CSE 5348 - Multimedia Systems
CSE 5350 - Computer Architecture II
CSE 5351 - Parallel Processing
CSE 5354 - Real-time Operating Systems
CSE 5358 - Microprocessor Systems
CSE 5359 - Special Topics in Systems and Architecture
CSE 5372 - RISC Processor Design
CSE 5373 - General Purpose GPU Programming
CSE 5383 - Introduction to Unmanned Vehicle Systems
CSE 5384 - Unmanned Vehicle System Development
CSE 6306 - Advanced Topics in Operating Systems
CSE 6348 - Advances in Sensor Networks
CSE 6349 - Special Topics in Advanced Networking
CSE 6350 - Advanced Topics in Computer Architecture
CSE 6351 - Advanced Topics in Computer Engineering
CSE 6352 - Fault-Tolerant Computing
CSE 6353 - Computer Engineering System Design
CSE 6359 - Advanced Topics in Systems and Architecture

Data Analytics/Algorithms/Theory:

CSE 5301 - Data Analysis and Modeling Techniques
CSE 5307 - Programming Language Concepts
CSE 5311 - Design and Analysis of Algorithms
CSE 5314 - Computational Complexity
CSE 5315 - Numerical Methods
CSE 5316 - Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation of Computer Systems
CSE 5317 - Design and Construction of Compilers
CSE 5318 - Applied Graph Theory and Combinatorics
CSE 5319 - Special Topics in Theory and Algorithms
CSE 6311 - Advanced Computational Models and Algorithms
CSE 6314 - Advanced Topics in Theoretical Computer Science
CSE 6319 - Special Topics in Advanced Theory and Algorithms

Computer Engineering Specialty Area Requirements

Beginning with Fall 2026, master's Computer Engineering degrees require the completion of one "specialty area". A "specialty area" is defined as a sequence of three courses, with at least one 6000-level course in a specific subject area.

NOTE: Prior to Fall 2026, CpE students utilized the same specialty areas as CS (listed above). If you have questions about which specialty area list you should be following, please contact CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu.

Some courses are listed in multiple specialty areas. Students who take such courses must choose which specialty area they want to use the course under. A single course cannot be used to fulfill multiple degree requirements.

The current specialty areas and associated courses for CpE are listed below. Not all the courses listed are taught each semester. Students are advised to review course listings as soon as the semester schedule is released to determine courses available in their chosen specialty areas.

Computer Architecture:

- CSE 5351 – Parallel Processing
- CSE 5354 – Real-Time Operating Systems
- CSE 5358 – Microprocessor Systems
- CSE 5359 – Special Topics in Computer Engineering (section 001)
- CSE 5372 – RISC Processor Design
- CSE 5373 – General Purpose GPU Architecture
- CSE 6351 – Advanced Topics in Computer Engineering
- CSE 6352 – Fault Tolerant Systems
- CSE 6353 – Computer Engineering System Design
- CSE 6359 – Advanced Topics in Systems & Architecture (when topic is relevant)

Embedded and Cyber-Physical Systems:

- CSE 5342 – Embedded Systems II
- CSE 5352 – IoT and Networking
- CSE 5354 – Real-Time Operating Systems
- CSE 5355 – Electromechanical Systems and Sensors
- CSE 5356 – System on Chip (SoC) Design
- CSE 5357 – Advanced Digital Logic Design
- CSE 5358 – Microprocessor Systems
- CSE 5372 – RISC Processor Design
- CSE 5377 – Wireless Communication Systems
- CSE 5359 – Special Topics in Computer Engineering (section 002)
- CSE 6348 – Embedded Systems Networking
- CSE 6351 – Advanced topics in Computer Engineering
- CSE 6352 – Fault Tolerant Systems
- CSE 6353 – Computer Engineering System Design

AI Systems and Architecture:

- CSE 5359 – Special Topics in Computer Engineering (section 003)
- CSE 5360 – Artificial Intelligence I
- CSE 5364 – Robotics
- CSE 5368 – Neural Networks
- CSE 5373 – General Purpose GPU Architecture
- CSE 5383 – Introduction to Unmanned Vehicle Systems
- CSE 5384 – Unmanned Vehicle System Development
- CSE 6351 – Advanced Topics in Computer Engineering
- CSE 6353 – Computer Engineering System Design
- CSE 6363 – Machine Learning
- CSE 6369 – Special Topics Advanced Intelligent Systems (when topic is relevant)

Declaring Specialty Areas

Declaring your specialty area(s) helps advisors track progression through your degree program and helps ensure that your degree MAP reflects your completed work. Students can declare their specialty areas by completing [this form](#).

Specialty areas can be declared at any point during your degree but **MUST** be done so before you apply for graduation. Failure to declare specialty areas before applying to graduation may delay processing. Selected specialty areas are **not** final and can be changed at any time until your degree is conferred.

Even when you have declared your specialty areas, please continue to use the appropriate degree plan worksheet from the CSE Info [Site](#) to track your progress.

HOW REGISTRATION WORKS FOR GRADUATE LEVEL CSE STUDENTS

Students are responsible for reviewing the registration dates and deadlines on the online UTA Academic [Calendar](#). CSE Advisors can only enroll students in CSE department courses.

1. Students should check the academic calendar to see when Regular Registration begins. Please note that summer terms are shorter in duration than fall and spring terms, therefore the summer timeline of events is more compressed than noted in the example calendar below.
2. Regular registration will open several months before the beginning of a specific term. Once registration opens, graduate students can enroll in graduate courses. Some courses fill up quickly. After the start of registration, student schedules will shift and change so there is a chance seats will open in various high-demand courses or under certain professors.
3. Regular registration continues until the day before classes start.
4. Late registration begins during the first week of class and continues for about one week. Students registering during this time may be obligated to pay late registration fees. If students want to change courses during this time, it is strongly recommended that students use the **swap** option in MyMav to change courses, **instead of drop/add** actions. Advisors can assist students as needed during this time.
5. CSE department policy states that students cannot swap or add CSE courses after late registration. CSE students can only drop courses after late registration. After late registration, a student can only be enrolled or dropped with advisor assistance. Enrollment during this time period is limited to new students who were unable to arrive at UTA during regular registration or late registration.
6. Being on the waitlist for a course is NOT the same as being enrolled. You are only enrolled in a course when you are in the class, and it appears on your schedule. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to enroll in a course if you are on the waitlist. Advisors will not bypass a waitlist to put you in a course that is full. MyMav runs waitlists overnight throughout the registration period. If there is an open spot in a class, MyMav will automatically enroll the first eligible student from the waitlist.
7. Note that there is also a Last Day to Drop. This date is generally about two months after Census, but students should check the UTA's Academic Calendar for the exact date. Students will need advisor assistance to drop through the last day to drop. Students can only drop classes after the Last Day to Drop by submitting documentation and obtaining the appropriate permissions.
8. Finally, students are responsible for knowing tuition and fee payment deadlines and should review the tuition refund schedule before dropping courses after the start of the term. Any and all fee questions should be directed to Student Accounts at studentaccounts@uta.edu or by visiting their office on the first floor of University Administration Building.

Example Registration Calendar

Below is an example of an Academic Calendar for a regular term and what each date means. You can always find the current Academic Calendar at uta.edu/academics/academic-calendar and the registration timetable at uta.edu/administration/registrar/calendars/registration.

Registration begins for Summer 2026 & Fall 2026 terms	Regular registration – Students may add, swap, drop and withdraw. Typically ends the day before the term begins.
Registration Ends for Fall Term - Regular Session	
First day of classes	
Late registration	
Late registration	Late registration – Students may swap or drop courses during the late registration period but may face additional charges. Late registration typically lasts through the first week of classes for regular sessions. Please see the current Academic Calendar for specific dates. CSE policy states that students can only make changes to their schedules through the last day of late registration.
Late registration	
Late registration	
Late registration	
Census date	Census date – The day UTA sends enrollment reports to the State of Texas and is a deadline for many different university processes.
Labor Day Holiday	
Last day to drop classes; submit requests in MyMav prior to 4:00pm	Last day to drop – CSE graduate students who need assistance dropping a course should email CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu . Students that need to drop a course after the last day to drop will require special assistance and approval to do so and is not guaranteed.
Registration begins for Spring 2027	
No classes scheduled	
Thanksgiving Holiday	
Thanksgiving Holiday	
Last day of classes	
Student Study Day (no classes)	
Commencement ceremonies	Commencement – There is a distinction between commencement and the conferral of your degree. Commencement refers to the graduation ceremony, but participating in the commencement ceremony does not guarantee that your degree will be conferred or officially awarded. Degree conferral occurs after final grades are due and declared official AND the Office of Registrar verifies the completion of your degree requirements.
Final exams	
Final exams	
Final exams	
Final exams	
Final exams	
Final exams	
Official last day of term	
Grades due	Grades due – This is the deadline for instructors to submit final grades.

The Degree MAP

The Degree MAP (Maverick Academic Progress) is what advisors review to be sure students are on track with their courses and to verify degree and graduation requirements. Ultimately, however, it is the Office of the Registrar that uses the MAP to determine eligibility for the awarding of a graduate degree.

Due to the almost infinite number of course combinations that can be used to satisfy a UTA CSE degree, MyMav cannot possibly slot all the courses for all students the way the students think they should be slotted. As such, CSE graduate students should not rely on the Degree Progress Module in MyMav. Instead, students should use the appropriate degree plan worksheet found on the CSE Info [Site](#).

Students may review their degree MAP with a graduate advisor as needed. Students who wish to switch from the default non-thesis plan to the thesis plan may contact an advisor at CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu for information and instructions.

Transfer Credit

Students who plan to transfer courses from another institution must file a formal request with their graduate advisor. The maximum amount of credit that may be considered for transfer is nine credit hours, however, often only six credit hours are approved. Approval is at the discretion of the graduate advisor. Students may write to an advisor at CSEGradAdvising@uta.edu for information and instructions.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Internships

US Citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, and H-1/H-4 visa holders do not need to do anything special regarding internships. If such a student receives an internship offer, they may choose to accept it but should keep a balance with school and work so as to succeed in earning their degree.

In order to be eligible for an internship, international master's students must have completed at least half of the courses required for their degree and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. However, students who are enrolled in coursework that, upon successful completion, will meet the halfway point of completion, whose GPA is at least 3.0, and whose CPT start date is after the end of the current term of enrollment, may be approved for the CPT that is to start after current enrollment has been completed.

Assistantships

Each semester, if department funding is available for master's students, the GTA hiring committee sends out an email via the CSE master's student listserv regarding eligibility and application information for GTA openings. Students may only submit one application per semester. Students chosen for a position will receive an email with further instructions and information. Due to the eligibility criteria for GTA appointments, first-semester master's students are typically not selected. Even after the first semester, it is uncommon for master's students to receive departmental support through a GTA offer, as PhD students are given priority for these positions.

A limited number of Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) positions may be available through CSE faculty members, contingent on their individual funding sources. GRA appointments are made entirely at the discretion of each faculty member, based on their own selection criteria. Students are responsible for seeking out and securing these opportunities.

Scholarships

If a relevant CSE Department scholarship opportunity becomes available, an email is sent to the CSE student

listservs with information and instructions. Students can also find scholarship opportunities in the online Mav Scholar Shop.

On Campus Employment

Students may apply for on campus employment via the Handshake portal managed by the UTA Career Center.

MASTER OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING DEGREE AND THE SEI CURRICULUM

Comparing the UTA Curriculum to the SEI Curriculum

Software Engineering Institute (SEI) (<http://www.sei.cmu.edu>) is a DoD-supported organization whose primary mission is to advance the state of the practice of software engineering by accelerating the transition of promising new methods and technologies from concept demonstration to routine use.

The UTA program includes all the necessary courses and content specified in the SEI M.SwE degree program, but the material is packaged somewhat differently. A mapping of the UTA curriculum into the SEI curriculum is provided below.

UTA Course	SEI Course
CSE 5324 Software Engineering: Analysis, Design, and Testing	Software Systems Engineering, Software Analysis, System Design Principles
CSE 5325 Software Eng. Management, Maintenance, and Quality Assurance	Software Project Management part of Software Creation and Maintenance
CSE 5326 Real Time Systems Design	Advanced System Design Principles, Software Analysis
CSE 6324 Advanced Topics in Software Engineering	Software Analysis, Verification & Validation, Software Engineering Seminar