**COMPUTER SCIENCE MS**

**Degree Requirements**

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures).

**Master's**

**Total Units Required: 12**

Each student pursuing an MS degree in the Computer Science Department must declare their intention on the Graduate Student Tracking System (https://gsts.northwestern.edu/site/login) (GSTS) to follow one of these three plans:

a) Thesis MS Degree, or  
b) Project MS Degree, or  
c) Course MS Degree.

The three options are summarized below. The student's declaration is subject to approval by their adviser. We recommend that this declaration be made during the second (winter) quarter, but we require that it be made no later than May 1st of the third (spring) academic quarter.

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<th>Course</th>
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**Course Requirements**

- Twelve (12) units of graduate-level credits are required for any CS MS degree
- At least six (6) units must be graduate-level COMP_SCI courses
- At least three (3) of the 12 units must be courses at 400-level or above  
  COMP_SCI 499-0 counts towards this requirement, COMP_SCI 590-0 does not

**Plan A: Thesis MS Degree**

**Total Units Required: 12**

In this plan, a student declares their intent to earn the MS degree by completing a formal thesis that reports substantial original research results. A maximum of three units of COMP_SCI 590-0 research credit can be counted toward the 12-unit requirement for the Thesis MS degree. Successful completion of this degree includes all coursework, formation of, and reporting by an MS Examination Committee, and written approval of the student's completed thesis by that committee.

**Plan B: Project MS Degree**

**Total Units Required: 12**

In this plan, a student declares their intent to earn the MS degree by completing a project and writing a project report that contains results based on existing theory and techniques, or results of a significant experimental verification. A maximum of two units of COMP_SCI 590-0 research credit can be counted toward the 12-unit requirement for the MS Project degree. Successful completion of this degree includes all coursework, formation of, and reporting by an MS Examination Committee, and written approval of the student's completed project report by that committee.

**Plan C: Courses-only MS Degree**

**Total Units Required: 12**

In this plan, the student must satisfactorily complete 12-courses approved by the student's adviser. The choice of courses must represent a coherent program of study, and must prepare the student for advanced work in a specific field selected in coordination with the adviser.