

# Things to Know Before Starting the MCS

1. UVU's Master of Computer Science (MCS) has been developed as a part-time program to allow working professionals to continue working full-time while completing their degree. While theory and research are always a part of a graduate degree, - the UVU MCS focuses on relevant, practical learning. The content of our courses and the scheduling of classes has been designed with working professional in mind. As a result, MCS classes are always offered at 4:00 p.m. or later to give you the opportunity to work full-time and attend class at night.
2. Unless a scheduling issue occurs, you will find a block of 2 **Core Classes** offered back to back and 2 *Elective Classes* offered on the other days of the week. If the block of **Core Classes** is offered on Monday/Wednesday in Fall in one year, then you will find a block of **Core Classes** offered again on Monday/Wednesday in the Spring of that same year. If the block of **Core Classes** is offered on Monday/Wednesday in one year, then the next year the block of **Core Classes** will be on Tuesday/Thursday and the block of *Elective Classes* will be on Monday/Wednesday.

	Monday/Wednesday	Tuesday/Thursday
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	Block of <b>Core Classes</b>	Block of <i>Elective Classes</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	Block of <i>Elective Classes</i>	Block of <b>Core Classes</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	Block of <b>Core Classes</b>	Block of <i>Elective Classes</i>
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	Block of <i>Elective Classes</i>	Block of <b>Core Classes</b>

This schedule, if you choose to follow it, allows you to take 2 classes per semester on the same days of the week until you graduate.

Starting in Fall 2020, we will begin offering 5 rather than 4 classes per semester to accommodate those students who are attending the MCS on a full-time basis. We will not be able to teach all 5 classes unless each class has the minimum number of students enrolled as required by the University.

3. The MCS has imposed very few prerequisites on classes to allow you more flexibility in setting your schedules. You are still **strongly** encouraged to take **Core Classes** before taking *Elective Classes*. If you take *Elective Classes* before you complete the **Core Classes**, you may find you are missing some fundamental knowledge that a professor expects you to know. This doesn't mean you will fail the class, but it can make the class more difficult to complete.
4. Because most of our students are already working professionally in the high-tech industry, we do not focus on offering scholarships or running funded research projects.

The University has requested that Graduate Programs focus their scholarships on being merit based. Our highest performing students are often the same students who excel at their current positions in industry, so it would be awkward to explain to the University why we gave a scholarship to a student making in excess of \$85,000 a year. If you are

struggling to meet the financial burdens of the MCS, let us help you by excelling in the program. Then you can use our faculty as references to get a better paying job. Many of our undergraduate students and even more of our graduate students make in excess of \$100,000 per year while still attending school. We don't want you to look at your MCS degree as just a path to money. We want you to see it as a path to knowledge. However, in truth, that knowledge can and will in most cases lead you to making greater money. A handful of former students we know of make in excess of \$300,000 per year. None of these former students are entrepreneurs, they are just students who have used their work ethic and strong knowledge of Computer Science to advance within the high-tech industry.

Some faculty members may have research money, but this is not guaranteed. Few of our students are interested in working 20 hours a week in a research position that cannot pay more than \$15 per hour. However, if you are interested in such a position, please talk to the Graduate Director or faculty. A number of faculty members would like better research funding, but this is predicated on having graduate students to commit to a project.

5. If your GPA drops below **3.0** the Graduate School will place you on academic probation. This is University Graduate School policy, not an MCS policy. Please consult with the Graduate School if you are placed on probation
6. The MCS supports two options for **Graduation Requirements**:  
Completion of all courses with a grade of B- or better.

***Graduate Project Option:***

- Graduate project proposal presented to and accepted by the student's Advisory Committee.
- Completion and defense of graduate project (CS 6600 Graduate Project I and CS 6610 Graduate Project II must be taken consecutively, they **cannot** be taken concurrently); defense must be accepted by the student's Advisory Committee.
- Completion of all required courses and elective courses for a total of 30 credit hours with an average GPA of 3.0 or higher.

***Graduate Coursework Option:***

- Completion of all required courses and elective courses (CS 6600 and CS 6610 do not count toward this option) for a total of 30 credit hours with an average GPA of 3.0 or higher.