The School of Computer Science offers an MSc degree in Computer Science.

The program emphasizes both academic and applied research that can contribute to further research, academic studies, industry partnerships, and government programs. The MSc degree encompasses professors at the cutting edge of their fields, course offerings covering a wide range of computer science areas, and competitive financial incentives to eligible students.

The School of Computer Science also offers an Interdisciplinary PhD degree in Computational Sciences. More information on can be found at: Computational Sciences (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/graduate-programs/computational-sciences/)

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MSc Program  

Admission Requirements  

Most spaces are filled in March for entry the following September,  
and in October for entry the following January. Prospective students  
should check the School of Computer Science website http://  
www.socs.uoguelph.ca/ for admission procedures and deadlines.  

General Requirements  

To be considered for admission, applicants must have a four-year  
honours degree in computer science, or a four-year honours degree in  
another discipline with at least 10 courses related to computer science.  
Applicants must meet the minimum admission requirements of both the  
university and the School of Computer Science, including at least a 75%  
average during the previous two years of full-time university study for a  
degree.  

In addition to the university and School of Computer Science  
requirements, applicants must also submit:  

i. a current CV and
ii. a statement of research that would normally include the following  
sections:  
· Specific research interest with justification.
· Academic and/or practical research experience.

English Proficiency  

A test of English proficiency is required of all applicants whose first  
language is not English. Please refer to the University of Guelph  
Admission Requirements (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/  
general-regulations/admission/admission-requirements/)  

Program Requirements  

Once a student has been admitted to the MSc program, the following  
components are required for the successful completion of the MSc  
degree:  

· Completion of CIS*6890 Technical Communication and Research  
  Methodology and at least four other graduate courses
· Completion of the seminar requirement.
· An accepted thesis.

Duration of the Program  

The MSc degree is a two-year program during which students complete  
five courses, give a public seminar and complete and successfully defend  
a thesis. Heavy emphasis is placed on the thesis, which usually requires  
at least two semesters. Students should plan on spending at least four  
full-time semesters (16 months) in the program assuming adequate  
preparation for graduate work.

Course Requirement  

An MSc student is required to take CIS*6890 Technical Communication  
and Research Methodology and at least four other CIS graduate courses.  
Of these four courses, at least two should be outside of the student’s  
thesis topic area. This area and the courses which fall outside of this area  
are identified by the student’s advisor. With approval from the Graduate  
Program Committee, a CIS graduate course requirement may also be  
met by a non-CIS graduate course or by a 4000-level course. At most one  
reading course (CIS*6660 Topics in Computer Science II) and at most one  
4000-level course can count towards the course requirement.

Seminar Requirement  

An MSc student must give one publicly announced research seminar  
on their MSc thesis research. The student will be allocated times and  
dates for the seminar. It must be attended by the student’s advisor  
and at least one other member of the student’s Advisory Committee.  
The quality of the presentation is graded on a pass/fail basis. The MSc  
seminar requirement is intended for students to practice presentation  
and communication skills and to participate in the process of knowledge  
dissemination as part of the academic life.

Thesis Defence  

Arrangements for the MSc thesis defence should be made at least four  
weeks prior to the anticipated date of the defence, and the student  
must submit their MSc thesis to the Examination Committee at least  
two weeks prior to the defence. The examination consists of an oral  
presentation by the student followed by questions from the Examination  
Committee.

Collaborative Specializations  

Artificial Intelligence  

The School of Computer Science participates in the collaborative  
specialization in Artificial Intelligence. MSc students wishing to  
undertake thesis research with an emphasis on artificial intelligence  
are eligible to apply to register concurrently in Computer Science and  
the collaborative specialization. Students should consult the Artificial  
Intelligence (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/collaborative-  
specializations/artificial-intelligence/) listing for more information.

One Health  

The School of Computer Science participates in the collaborative  
specialization in One Health. Master’s and Doctoral students wishing  
to undertake thesis research or their major research paper/project with  
an emphasis on one health are eligible to apply to register concurrently  
in Computer Science and the collaborative specialization. Students  
should consult the One Health (calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/  
collaborative-specializations/one-health/) listing for more information.

Courses  

The core graduate courses are designed to be accessible to any student  
with an appropriate background in Computer Science and will provide  
enough introduction for those unfamiliar with the specific area to allow  
them to keep up with the advanced material.

The advanced graduate courses are taught with the assumption that the  
student has sufficient background in the research area to understand the  
advanced concepts and research ideas. Students who intend to take a  
course for which they have insufficient background should consult with  
the instructor prior to enrollment in the course.
CIS*6200 Artificial Intelligence Unspecified [0.50]
An examination of Artificial Intelligence principles and techniques such as: logic and rule based systems; forward and backward chaining; frames, scripts, semantic nets and the object-oriented approach; the evaluation of intelligent systems and knowledge acquisition. A sizeable project is required and applications in other areas are encouraged.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6030 Information Systems Unspecified [0.50]
Relational and other database systems, web information concurrency protocols, data integrity, transaction management, distributed databases, remote access, data warehousing, data mining.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6050 Neural Networks Unspecified [0.50]
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6060 Bioinformatics Unspecified [0.50]
Data mining and bioinformatics, molecular biology databases, taxonomic groupings, sequences, feature extraction, Bayesian inference, cluster analysis, information theory, machine learning, feature selection.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6070 Discrete Optimization Unspecified [0.50]
This course will discuss problems where optimization is required and describes the most common techniques for discrete optimization such as the use of linear programming, constraint satisfaction methods, and genetic algorithms.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6080 Genetic Algorithms Unspecified [0.50]
This course introduces the student to basic genetic algorithms, which are based on the process of natural evolution. It is explored in terms of its mathematical foundation and applications to optimization in various domains.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6120 Uncertainty Reasoning in Knowledge Representation Unspecified [0.50]
Representation of uncertainty, Dempster-Schafer theory, fuzzy logic, Bayesian belief networks, decision networks, dynamic networks, probabilistic models, utility theory.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6130 Object-Oriented Modeling, Design and Programming Unspecified [0.50]
Objects, modeling, program design, object-oriented methodology, UML, CORBA, database
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6160 Multiagent Systems Unspecified [0.50]
Intelligent systems consisting of multiple autonomous and interacting subsystems with emphasis on distributed reasoning and decision making. Deductive reasoning agents, practical reasoning agents, probabilistic reasoning agents, reactive and hybrid agents, negotiation and agreement, cooperation and coordination, multiagent search, distributed MDP, game theory, and modal logics.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6170 Human-Computer Interaction Unspecified [0.50]
This course concentrates on the theoretical and practical issues related to the design and study of interactive technologies for human use. Topics include: general principles of design, qualitative and quantitative research methods, prototyping techniques, theoretical issues underlying designing to individuals and groups, and ethical issues related to conducting research involving humans.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6180 Analysis of Big Data Unspecified [0.50]
This course introduces software tools and data science techniques for analyzing big data. It covers big data principles, state-of-the-art methodologies for large data management and analysis, and their applications to real-world problems. Modern and traditional machine learning techniques and data mining methods are discussed and ethical implications of big data analysis are examined. May be offered in conjunction with DATA*6300.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6190 Machine Learning for Sequential Data Processing Unspecified [0.50]
This course emphasizes machine learning for sequential data processing. It covers common challenges and pre-processing techniques for sequential data such as text, biological sequences, and time series data. Students are exposed to machine learning techniques, including classical methods and more recent deep learning models, so that they obtain the background and skills needed to confront real-world applications of sequential data processing. May be offered in conjunction with DATA*6400.
Department(s): School of Engineering
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6320 Image Processing Algorithms and Applications Unspecified [0.50]
Brightness transformation, image smoothing, image enhancement, thresholding, segmentation, morphology, texture analysis, shape analysis, applications in medicine and biology.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6420 Soft Computing Unspecified [0.50]
Neural networks, artificial intelligence, connectionist model, back propagation, resonance theory, sequence processing, software engineering concepts.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph
CIS*6510 Cybersecurity and Defense in Depth Fall Only [0.50]
This course provides an overview of concepts and technical measures that are employed to enforce security policies and protect networks and systems from malicious activities. Students will learn how to engineer a secure system and how to secure networks in an ethical manner.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6520 Advanced Digital Forensics and Incident Response Fall Only [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of theoretical concepts and practical issues in the field of digital forensics and incident response. Students will develop necessary skills, methodologies, and processes to detect cyber incidents and conduct in-depth computer and network investigation.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6530 Cyber Threat Intelligence and Adversarial Risk Analysis Winter Only [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of techniques for detecting, responding to, and defeating Advanced Persistent Threats (APT) and malware campaigns using artificial intelligence and data mining techniques. Students will identify, extract, and leverage intelligence from different types of cyber threat actors.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6540 Advanced Penetration Testing and Exploit Development Winter Only [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of techniques for detecting, responding to, and defeating Advanced Persistent Threats (APT) and malware campaigns using artificial intelligence and data mining techniques. Students will identify, extract, and leverage intelligence from different types of cyber threat actors.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6550 Privacy, Compliance, and Human Aspects of Cybersecurity Unspecified [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth view of the privacy, regulatory, and ethical issues surrounding cybersecurity. It covers methods of mitigating/treating privacy risks associated with emerging technologies that collect, manage, and analyse data. This course also examines data protection regulations and compliance strategies.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6560 Cybersecurity and Threat Intelligence Project Winter and Summer Reg Required [1.00]
Students plan, develop, and write an industry- or faculty-led report and produce required tools, services, and software. Projects should advance knowledge or practice, and address an emerging challenge in cybersecurity, cyber threat intelligence, digital forensics and incident response, cyber threat hunting, or a closely related field.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6570 Advanced Cryptography and Cryptanalysis Unspecified [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth understanding of modern cryptography, with emphasis on practical applications. Topics covered include classical systems, information theory, symmetrical cryptosystems, block ciphers, stream ciphers, DES, AES, asymmetric cryptosystems, ECC, provable security, key exchange and management, and authentication and digital signatures, among others.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6580 Security Monitoring and Cyber Threat Hunting Unspecified [0.50]
This course provides a comprehensive review of tools, techniques, and procedures for monitoring network events and assets to build a secure network architecture. It trains students in methods for hunting attackers that could bypass designed network defense mechanisms in an enterprise.
Restriction(s): Student registered in the MCTI program.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6590 Professional Seminar in Cybersecurity Fall and Winter Reg Required [0.50]
This two-semester course offers a multidisciplinary forum for discussion of topics related to cybersecurity. The seminar fosters professional skills development (academic and industry), promotes collaboration between industry experts and graduate students, facilitates mentoring and project development, and contributes to the transfer of knowledge between industry and academia.
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6650 Topics in Computer Science I Unspecified [0.50]
This special topics course examines selected, advanced topics in computer science that are not covered by existing courses. The topic(s) will vary depending on the need and the instructor.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6660 Topics in Computer Science II Unspecified [0.50]
This is a reading course. Its aim is to provide background knowledge to students who need to get a head-start in their thesis research fields early during their program while no suitable regular graduate courses are offered. Admission is under the discretion of the instructor.
Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6670 Special Topics in Cybersecurity Unspecified [0.50]
This course provides an in-depth view of a variety of advanced topics within cybersecurity. Subject areas discussed in any particular semester will depend upon the interests of both the students and the instructor. Students should check with the School of Computer Science to determine what topics will be offered during specific semesters.
Location(s): Guelph

CIS*6890 Technical Communication and Research Methodology Unspecified [0.50]
This course aims to develop students’ ability in technical communication and general research methodology. Each student is expected to present a short talk, give a mini lecture, review a conference paper, write a literature survey and critique fellow students’ talks and lectures.
Department(s): School of Computer Science
Location(s): Guelph