Department of Computer Science

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Department Head
John Paxton (http://www.cs.montana.edu/faculty/john-paxton.html)

Research Experience
Thesis option master’s degree students gain research experience through their theses and are expected to submit the results of their thesis work to at least one journal or conference. Ph.D. students gain research experience through their doctoral work, journal or conference submissions, and attending conferences.

Research Facilities
Graduate research and coursework can be performed on systems owned and operated by the Computer Science Department. On-campus work is typically performed in laboratories or graduate student offices. A typical machine is a dual boot (Linux / Windows) PC. Intel-based Macs running OSX are also available. Outside the department, the MSU Information Technology Center provides additional computing infrastructure.

Computer Science is housed in MSU’s high technology Engineering and Physical Sciences building.

Financial Assistance
A number of research and teaching assistantships are available for qualified graduate students. These appointments are normally for 20 hours per week during the academic year. Some appointments may also be available during the summer. Assistantships will only be offered to formally admitted graduate students. See the appropriate CS M.S. degree or Ph.D. degree website for more information.

Graduate Programs
- M.S. in Computer Science (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/engineering/computer-science/ms-computer-science)
- Ph.D. in Computer Science (http://catalog.montana.edu/graduate/engineering/computer-science/phd-computer-science)

M.S. Degree Program
A Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science is recommended. Students with non-computer science degrees at the Bachelor’s level or above are also encouraged to apply; such students will generally be required to take appropriate courses while enrolled at MSU to make up computer science and related subject matter deficiencies prior to full acceptance into the computer science Master’s program. Factors that the department uses in its admissions process include GRE scores, TOEFL scores (for non-native English speakers), reference letters, GPA and previous coursework. For more information, please refer to www.cs.montana.edu/future-students-masters-program.html.

Details about applying can be found at www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html.

Ph.D. Degree Program
The degree is generally intended for students who have a B.S. or M.S. degree in Computer Science and who want to pursue a research and/or college-level teaching career. The program requires coursework, research, exams and the writing of a dissertation.

Admission to the doctoral program follows the requirements of The Graduate School. Factors that the department uses in its admissions process include GRE scores, TOEFL scores (for non-native English speakers), reference letters, GPA and previous coursework. For more information, please refer to www.cs.montana.edu/current-students-phd.html.

Details about applying can be found at www.montana.edu/gradschool/admissions/apply.html. The Computer Science Department encourages applicants to use the online application procedure.