Master of Science in Computer Science: Accelerated Version

Processes for Applicant Selection, Admission, and Registration

Applicant Solicitation:
The accelerated version of the MSCS program is described via a link on the departmental website. All descriptions and discussion of the accelerated version emphasize that it is available only to selected Boise State University undergraduate students in the BSCS program. Each interested student must contact one or more CS faculty members to identify one or more prospective thesis/project advisors and to identify the two graduate courses proposed to be taken during the undergraduate career for application to both BSCS and MSCS degree requirements.

Eligibility Requirements:
1. Completion of at least 75 credits applicable to the BSCS program.
2. Overall GPA of at least 3.0
3. GPA of at least 3.3 in all completed COMPSCI classes

Letter of Intent:
Undergraduate BSCS students interested in pursuing an accelerated MSCS degree starting in the fall semester must submit a letter of intent by January 15th of the preceding academic year. Undergraduate BSCS students interested in pursuing an accelerated MSCS degree starting in the spring semester must submit a letter of intent by August 15th of the preceding summer. The letter of intent must specify the following:

1. statement of purpose articulating career goals and preparation for an accelerated MSCS schedule
2. prospective CS faculty advisor(s) and possible thesis/project topics
3. two graduate courses proposed to be taken during the last two undergraduate semesters
4. overall GPA and COMPSCI GPA

An unofficial transcript must be attached to the letter of intent.

Departmental Selection Process:
The departmental graduate program coordinator, along with the Computer Science Graduate Committee (CSGC), evaluates the letters of intent and determines which applicants meet the eligibility requirements. Suggestions from prospective CS faculty advisors (identified by interested students) and comments by previous course instructors may be solicited to help evaluate the suitability of applicants. The graduate program coordinator provides his/her recommendations to the department chair by January 25th (fall semester program start) or August 25th (spring semester program start).

The department chair considers the recommendations of the graduate program coordinator and any additional feedback from prospective CS faculty advisors, and then
compiles a final list of students recommended for admission to the accelerated version of the MSCS program. This final list must give the full name and university ID number of each recommended student, and must specify the graduate courses that each student intends to take during their undergraduate career. The following two actions are then carried out by the department chair with completion by February 1st (fall semester program start) or September 1st (spring semester program start):

1. Provide the final list of students (full name, ID number, two graduate courses) to Linda Platt in Graduate Admission and Degree Services (GADS).
2. Notify each student of the results of the selection process. For those students that are recommended for admission to the accelerated version of the MSCS program by the department, the notification must emphasize the following:
   a. the final admission decision will be determined by the Graduate College
   b. any student wishing to decline consideration for admission needs to notify both the department chair and Linda Platt in GADS

**Admission**

After conclusion of the departmental selection process (see section above), a GADS staff member takes the following actions:

1. enters a graduate application for each student recommended for admission to the accelerated version of the MSCS program (except for any student who has declined consideration for admission)
2. works with department staff to enable the department to pay the graduate application fee for each student.
3. prepares a Program Admission Recommendation (PAR) form for the student

The graduate program coordinator completes and signs the PAR form and returns it to GADS for a final admission decision by the graduate dean or designee. All such processing should be done promptly so that the following actions are completed as soon as possible:

1. formal letters from the graduate dean received by students giving their admission status (copies to department)
2. senior permit forms for the two graduate courses executed by GADS for those students who are admitted to the accelerated version of the MSCS program (choose the option for which graduate courses are applied toward undergraduate credit)

If an application is received by GADS from a student who is not on the final list submitted by the department chair, a GADS staff member will contact the student and advise them accordingly.

**Registration**

Execution of the senior permit forms constitutes registration of a student for the two graduate courses that will apply to both the BSCS and MSCS degree requirements for that student. Each student participant in the accelerated version of the MSCS program is responsible for all other course registrations.
Approval

The Department of Computer Science is approved to implement an accelerated version of the M.S. Computer Science program according to the revised applicant selection, admission, and registration process outlined in this document and subject to all applicable polices and procedures of the Graduate College.

NOTE: The initial approval of the accelerated version of the MSCS program and the original applicant selection, admission, and registration process was granted by the Graduate College on 8 December 2008. This approval is for Revision 1 of the original applicant selection, admission, and registration process.

John R. Pelton
Dean of the Graduate College

10 June 2014
Effective Date of Revision 1

Signature of the Dean of the Graduate College

Date