

For new MS students Fall 2011

Congratulations on your admission to Clemson, and we are pleased that you are joining us!

You will find more information about the MS program in computer science, including a list of required core courses, at the web page : www.clemson.edu/ces/computing/current/curr_grad/masters/index.html .

You will find the computer science courses offered for Fall 2011 at : soc.clemson.edu/CP_SC.FALL.htm .

You will find the catalog descriptions of computer science courses in a pdf file linked from the third bullet on this page : www.registrar.clemson.edu/publicat/catalog/2010_GC/coi/index.htm (identified as pages 75-77 but appearing as fifth, sixth, and seventh pages of that particular pdf file). [Please be aware that we are in the process of correcting the prerequisite lists since some of the prerequisites that appear in the catalog are out-of-date. For more information about the content and prerequisites for a specific course, I advise you to view the syllabus prepared by the Fall 2011 instructor for that course.]

Your course selection depends to a large degree on your career interests. The courses you would choose if you were interested in a career in, say, computer networking, would be different from the courses chosen by a student who wants to follow a career path in software engineering. I will be glad to meet with you individually or in groups to advise you and your fellow incoming students. Having said that, you can go ahead and register at any time using Clemson's SISweb.

The normal course load is three courses per semester. I recommend that you consider three of these nine courses for your first semester:

- CPSC 604, Computer Graphics Images
- CPSC 620, Computer Security Principles
- CPSC 662, Database Systems
- CPSC 810, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
- CPSC 839, Foundations of Computer Science (which covers formal languages and automata)
- CPSC 870, Object-Oriented Software Design
- CPSC 871, Foundations of Software Engineering
- CPSC 881 section 400, Systems Engineering II (will not count against 881 limit mentioned below)
- HCC 831, Introduction to Human-Centered Computing (counts as SOC course)

You are allowed to count up to two 600-level courses toward your degree and/or up to two pre-approved, non-CPSC courses. E.g., several CPSC students have taken ECE 649 Computer Network Security.

Most of the 600/800-level CPSC courses other than 888, 950, and 991 can be counted toward your degree, but there is a limit on the number and type of 681/881 courses. 891 can only be counted toward an MS when you choose the thesis option.

You may find some courses are popular and are currently full. You can put your name on the request logs for those courses. There is a fair amount of dropping and adding, up through the first week of class, so please keep checking to see if seats are available in the courses you want. (The request logs are not automatic; that is, you will not automatically be enrolled in a requested class once a seat opens up. However, the request lists help us judge which courses need more seats.)

Many faculty encourage you to attend the first week of a requested course, even if you are not enrolled, since seats do open up. Once you are able to obtain a seat in a requested course, please drop one of your other courses so that you are registered for no more than three courses at a time.