Guidelines for prospective M.S. Students

Here are some of the criteria we look for when evaluating your application. They are not a guarantee of acceptance or rejection, but should serve as a guideline: each case will be judged individually. With the approval of the Admissions Committee, exceptional students can be admitted conditionally even if some of the prerequisites listed below are not satisfied.

We expect our Masters students to have completed a bachelors or comparable degree similar to our own undergraduate degree. In particular, we expect a good background in mathematics (similar to calculus 1 - 3, probability and statistics, discrete mathematics and linear algebra) and a solid background in programming. You should be able to program in several programming languages and programming environments, and pick up additional languages and systems as needed. We expect courses in algorithms, operating systems, software engineering, theory, programming language principles and computer architecture. We also expect a few advanced upper division electives, and several science courses.

If your grades are measured in the American system, we expect a GPA of 3.00 or better (on the 1-4 scale); if you graduated under a different system, we ask for a comparable undergraduate average. We recommend that you submit your scores for the Graduate Record Examination.

Since the masters program is relatively short, we discourage transfer of graduate courses from other institutions, permitting at most two courses to be transferred. Course transfer requires the approval of the department chair, who will check the appropriateness of the transfer based on documentation submitted by the student and information available on the web.

We cannot offer our masters students any financial support. However, the department has a very limited number of lab assistant positions, and individual professors may occasionally hire students with grant funds. These positions are offered on a competitive basis, and their availability depends on a number of factors, and the amount is not enough to live on. So a prospective student needs to be prepared to cover the entire cost of education and living without relying on financial support by the department.