



New Student Orientation Information

M.S. in Computer Science



Welcome to NYU Courant Institute

We look forward to working with you as you pursue your educational and career goals.

Department Contacts

Professor Daniele Panozzo

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Assistant Director, Academic Affairs
Graduate Programs

Cristina Domingo

Graduate Program Administrator

Advisor Meetings

— We are happy to answer any questions you may have via our zoom office hours, email or telephone.

If your last name begins with the letter A-M, Betty Tsang is your advisor. Betty can be reached at betty.tsang@nyu.edu

If your last name begins with N-Z, Cristina Domingo is your advisor. Cristina can be reached at cdomingo@cs.nyu.edu

Office of Global Services (OGS)

The [Office of Global Services \(OGS\)](#) handles all visa and immigration matters for the university including I-20, travel signatures, CPT, OPT

- The US government requires all new NYU international students to report their arrival to NYU.
- Complete arrival form and submit your immigration information to OGS online.
- Attend International Student Orientation.

Review the check in procedures on this page:

<https://www.nyu.edu/students/student-information-and-resources/student-visa-and-immigration/newly-admitted/when-you-arrive/mandatory-check-in.html>

Academic and Career Planning

Academic Planning

- It is important to plan your program from the beginning. Always check in with your advisor if you have questions on how to structure your program
- Full-time students will take three courses (9 credits) each semester. If you're an F-1 international student, you can be part time in your final semester if you have less than 9 credits to complete your degree. International students will need to [apply for a “reduced course load” in the final semester](#).
- Part-time students will typically take one course (3 credits) each semester. Part-time students who are working full-time are encouraged to start conservatively and take only one class each semester.

International students

Be mindful of the dates on your F-1 visa/I-20 and time allowed for completion of your degree

Full-Time Status

- International students are required to maintain full-time status or equivalent during the fall and spring semesters
- 9 credits of coursework (or 3 courses) is considered a full-time course load
- You will automatically have full-time status with 9 credits
- Financial Aid implications if you have student loans and do not enroll full-time
- Half-time status: If you need half-time equivalency for loan purposes, please reach out to your advisor.

Online Course Policy

- GSAS Courant Students are not permitted to take more than a total of 50% of their courses online. Please do not take more than 5 courses online in your entire graduate career.
- Most NYU courses are in-person so students are expected to attend classes in-person
- If you are an international student, you must take at least one in-person course every semester to be in compliance with your student visa.
- If you have any questions about in-person requirements, please contact the [Office of Global Services \(OGS\)](#), which is the visa and immigration office.

Spring 2025 Registration

- Spring 2025 schedule will be published on Oct. 21st.
- Spring 2025 registration begins the week of Nov. 18th for continuing students. Your registration date will depend on how many credits you have earned with a grade by then.
- New students can register on Dec. 11th at 10am EST
- All students must register through [Albert](#).

Sample Course Plan

First Semester

- **Foundational Course:** Fundamental Algorithms
- **Foundational Course:** Programming Languages
- **CS elective:** Database Systems, Math Techniques for CS Applications, Data Comm and Networks, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Graphics, Natural Language Processing

Second Semester

- **Foundational Course:** Operating Systems
- **CS elective:** Database Systems, Math Techniques for CS Applications, Data Comm and Networks, Artificial Intelligence, Realtime and Big Data, Computer Vision
- **CS elective:** Database Systems, Math Techniques for CS Applications, Data Comm and Networks, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Graphics, Natural Language Processing

MSCS Degree Summary

- [30-credit](#) standard degree or [36-credit option with AI Concentration or Systems/Security Concentration](#)
- [Degree Options Comparison Chart](#) (must log into [NYU Home](#))
- For 30 credit option requirements:
- Three Foundational courses,
- One application area in either Databases, Graphics, Computing for Science and Society or Intelligent Systems
- One capstone course
- Option to take one outside elective (internship, Tandon or Stern course)
- One internship max

MSCS Degree Summary

- [30-credit](#) standard degree or [36-credit option with AI Concentration or Systems/Security Concentration](#)
- [Degree Options Comparison Chart](#) (must log into [NYU Home](#))
- Must declare the AI or Systems/Security concentration by April 1st for Fall cohort or November 1st for Spring cohort
- For 36 credit with concentration: core concentration course and two additional concentration courses
 - AI concentration: AI or ML core + 2 AI concentration concentration courses
 - Systems/Security concentration: OS+2 systems/security concentration courses
- One concentration capstone course
- Option to take 3 outside electives (internship, Tandon or Stern course)
- Two internships max

30/36 credit comparison chart

Compare 30/36 credit with concentration (AI or Systems/Security)



New MSCS Program options comparison	30 credit option	36 credit option with concentration
Foundational Courses	3 foundational courses;9 credits (FA, OS, PL) with an average GPA of 2.667 or higher	3 foundational courses 9 credits (FA, OS, PL) with an average GPA of 2.667 or higher
Standard CS classroom based courses	21 credits total including foundational courses, one application area and one capstone course	21 credits including foundational courses, 9 credits of concentration and one capstone course
Internship or outside elective	Max of 1 internship (3 credits)	Max of 2 internships (6 credits)
Capstone course	Successfully complete with B grade or higher	Must choose an AI or Systems/Security capstone course and complete with a B grade or higher
Electives	Up to 6 credits including one outside elective, one related elective	Up to 15 credits including two related electives, three outside electives
Duration	3 semesters+summer (3 credits) or 4 semesters without summer	4 semesters + optional summer
Transfer Credits	Only 3 transfer credits allowed (if 3 credits transferred, internship is not permitted-takes away from internship credit)	Up to 9 credits allowed (if 9 credits are transferred, no internship-takes away from internship credits)
THESIS OPTION	Thesis option possible with approval (6 credits over 2 semesters) can count in lieu of capstone course	Thesis option available with approval but it will not replace the capstone course. The concentration capstone course is required. The thesis will count as elective credit only (6 credits over two semesters)

Foundational Courses

Required Foundational courses

- Fundamental Algorithms, Programming Languages and Operating Systems
- Must maintain a B- (2.667) average or higher in three foundational courses combined

Full-Time students

- Complete at least one foundational course during first semester
- Complete all three by the end of second full time semester (example: if you begin your program in fall, you must finish all three by the end of the following spring semester).

We do not advise registering for all three in your first semester. We suggest enrolling in FA and PL in your first semester, along with a third manageable course. OS can be taken in your second semester along with two other courses.

Do not take OS and FA in the same semester!

Part-Time students

- Must take a foundational course as your first course
- Must complete all three within the first six courses taken



If any of the above is not satisfied, you will be placed on academic probation

Capstone Course

Every student must complete the capstone requirement

- Students must earn a B grade or higher in a designated capstone course to meet the capstone requirement
- Capstone courses are on [page 2 of the MSCS Requirements form](#)

Prerequisites

- Most capstone courses have the three foundational courses as a prerequisite, but students should check the instructor's course homepage for more info.

Timing

- We suggest taking a capstone in your second-to-last semester so that you have one more semester to take another capstone, in case you do not earn a B or better.

Thesis Option

Qualifications

- Students must have at least a cumulative GPA of 3.75 (A-) or better a full-time 6 courses completed
- Students must also have earned a B+ or better in all of the foundational courses
- Students must find a full-time faculty member to serve as their Thesis advisor and another full time faculty member to service as their second reader
- The MS Thesis replaces the capstone degree requirement for the 30 credit standard degree but it does not replace the concentration capstone with the 36 credit option with concentration (concentration capstone still required for 36 credit with concentration). The thesis would count as elective credits for the concentration option.
- The thesis course is taken over two semesters for a total of 6 credits (3 credits each semester)

External Internships/CPT

We recommend using the following resources when looking for an internship:

- The Wasserman Center for Career Development
- CS opportunities mailing list

Eligibility

- Full time students can do an internship for credit after completing two full-time semesters. Part time students can do an internship after 6 courses completed. International students should check with OGS to verify eligibility.

Transfer credits

- Amount of credits transferred can affect internship eligibility
- Academic Good Standing
- Students must be in academic good standing to be approved for an internship
- Academic Integrity Policy Violations
- Students who have been found guilty of violating the academic integrity policy can be denied an internship for credit

International students must also get approval through OGS after their internship is approved by the department.

- Applying for internship credit is a lengthy process so plan accordingly and apply for the credit as early as possible at least two weeks prior to your start date. [More information can be found here.](#)

Center for Data Science

- If there is room in their degree requirements, students can take classes from the Center for Data Science (CDS). CDS courses count as related electives.
- We will not know which CDS courses will be available to our students until a few weeks before each semester begins. There is no guarantee there will be seats available.
- Our department will send an email to our students closer to the start of each semester once CDS informs us which of their courses are available to our students.
- When you register for classes you should register for another class. If a CDS course that you are interested in becomes available later on, you could swap the courses at that point.

Policies and Procedures

Good Standing and Probation

GSAS requirements

- Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.000
- Students must also successfully complete 66% of credits attempted

MSCS students

- Students must maintain an average GPA of 2.667 (B-) in the three foundational courses

Probation

- Restoration to good standing
- If you are put on probation, you will receive a letter detailing why and your timeline to restore yourself to good standing. Students typically have until the end of the following semester to restore themselves but every individual situation can vary.

Termination

- Students risk termination if they do not restore themselves to good standing
- Students can appeal termination, a probation decision or the criteria set for the reversal of probation

Academic Integrity

- Academic Integrity is hugely important for all students
- All students need to read and sign a copy of the academic integrity policy.
- Check with your instructors if you are unsure if something will violate the academic integrity policy
- Penalties can vary from a zero on the assignment in question, to failure of the course or even termination from the program
- Students involved in cheating cases will be ineligible for departmental on-campus positions, such as grader positions. The department also may not approve an internship for credit.

[Department of Computer Science Academic Integrity Policy](#)

Time to Degree

- GSAS enforces a 5-year limit for students to finish their degree
- Extensions are possible and are usually permitted up to one year requiring approval from the GSAS Dean's Office
- International students need to be aware of possible stricter time limits set by their visas.

Continuous Enrollment

GSAS requires continuous enrollment in the fall and spring throughout your program of study until graduation

Three ways to maintain continuous enrollment:

- Register for at least one course
- Take an approved official leave of absence
- Enroll for Maintenance of Matriculation (requires a ~ \$1,000 fee if not for medical reasons)

Transfer Credits

A maximum of three credits can be transferred with the 30-credit option and 9 credits with the 36-credit option.

- You must initiate the request within your first year at NYU

Students must submit:

- [Transfer Credit Request Form](#)
- An unopened official transcript
- Course syllabus

Approval

- If the DGS approves the request, it will go on to the Office of Academic & Student Affairs (OASA) at GSAS.
- GSAS Office of Academic and Student Affairs has the final decision.

Impact on Internship Ability

- Students who transfer 3 credits with the 30-credit option will not be able to take an internship for credit

Refunds and Withdrawals

Refunds

- Last day to receive a full tuition and fees refund for a course is the add/drop deadline (**Monday, February 3, 2025 at 11:59PM for the Spring 2025 semester**)
- If you drop after the add/drop deadline at midnight or later, you will receive NO REFUND

Withdrawals

- Last day to drop courses and not receive a “W” is **Monday, February 3, 2025 at 11:59PM**
- A “W” will be given from **Tuesday, February 4, 2025** midnight and onwards for courses dropped.

Stern courses deadlines differ. Check with your Advisor for dates.

Payment Deadline

- Spring 2025 graduate payment deadline is January 15, 2025
- Your courses could be dropped for non-payment. Please discuss options or extensions with the Office of the Bursar
- **Payment due within six business days if you add a class after the payment deadline. A new bill will be generated.**

Computer Accounts and Mailing Lists

CIMS Account

Courant Computer Account page

opportunities@cs.nyu.edu

Research and job opportunities

Must subscribe with CIMS or NYU email account

GSAS Master's College

- Provides access to information, advisement, and resources for prospective and current master's students as they focus on their scholarly, professional, and personal development.
- Hosts a variety of academic events, including thesis competitions, career-planning seminars, and grant-writing workshops.
- The Master's College also plans social events to give students a chance to meet colleagues from other departments in a convivial and welcoming atmosphere.
- Find out more on [their website](#)

Useful Links

[Computer Science Graduate Program Page](#)

[The Graduate School of Arts and Science](#)

[The Graduate School of Arts and Science Policies and Procedure Manual](#)

[Office of Global Services](#)

[Bursar](#)

[Registrar](#)

[NYU Box Office](#)

Useful Links continued...

[Student Life](#)

[Campus Resources](#)

[Student Health Center](#)

[Campus Bookstore](#)

[The Wasserman Center for Career Development](#)

[Residential Life](#)

[New York City MTA](#)

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**Thank you.
We look forward to
advising you on your
academic journey.**

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