Required 30 hours (10 courses) including required and elective courses at 4-thousand (4xxx) level and above. Up to 3 courses can be transferred if credited at the graduate level, reducing the number of courses needed to graduation. Required course can also be waived based on prior graduate or undergraduate coursework or experience, and be substituted with an elective. One 6xxx course is required – these courses have a prerequisite in the preceding semester which should be taken as an elective or waived (waiver must be approved) based on prior experience or coursework. Optional thesis option satisfies this requirement. At most 12 hours (4 courses) can be counted at the 4xxx level.

Admission is possible with up to 3-4 missing admission requirements, based on GPA and other criteria, with corresponding restrictions. Such restrictions must be lifted (corresponding courses at level 1xxx, 2xxx or 3xxx level passed with B or better) and they do not count toward the program requirements. Restrictions can also be lifted prior to starting the program, or after, if the required knowledge is proven (transcripts with similar courses) or demonstrated (knowledge of the corresponding topics). Interested applicants can also contact the Graduate Director prior to admission decision with such additional information to assess their fulfillment of the entry requirements. Any Restriction must be completed within the first semester, or a year if allowed by the Graduate Director.

Graduate students also must attend five departmental colloquia before graduation. The department also offers a number of graduate and undergraduate certificates to package electives in areas of Mobile Apps and Computing, Internet and Web, Data Science, and Cybersecurity. Graduate students may obtain these certificates with or without extra coursework by properly choosing electives and possibly using prior coursework. Many of the 4xxx level courses needed in the certificates have corresponding 5xxx courses to facilitate fulfillment of the certificate requirement by graduate students. If interested, review the available certificates and discuss with your advisor.

The department offers graduate teaching assistantships, students can apply for these with admission application but the majority are given to students already in the program. In addition, individual faculty offer research assistantships.

**UMSL|NOW**: The entire program can be completed in the evening.