Information on advising for new and existing student in MS

Department of Computer Science

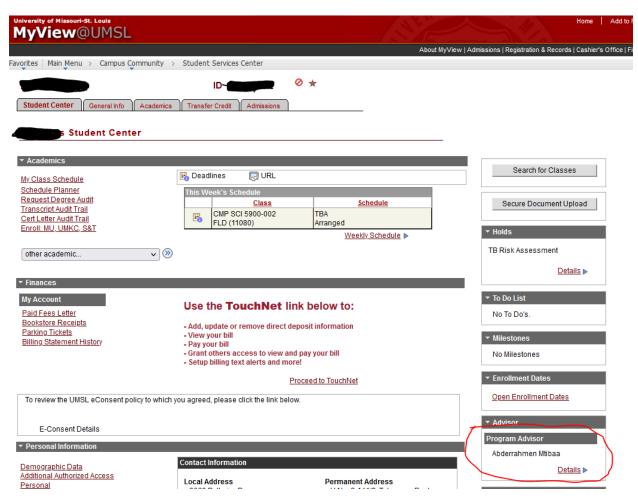
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Use this document to prepare yourself for a visit with your advisor.

Advisor info

Your advisor will be listed in MyView as shown below. If none are listed, you are likely a new student before someone was assigned to you. In that case, if you need to go through advising now, contact the program director as listed here for MS in Computer Sciene and <a href=here for MS in Cybersecurity.

Note that you need actual advice from an advisor who would remove your advising hold before you can enroll for the next semester.



Steps in Advising

1. Hold

Every MS student will have an advising hold R04 to speak with an advisor before being cleared to enroll. The advising hold needs to be removed after getting a proper advice. Some students may have other holds preventing them from enrolling or not. Department's holds are G05 on GPA requirements, and G06 on restrictions, see under restrictions.

2. Transfers

You may or may already have transferred in some credits, up to 1/3 of the total required credits for the program. Read more here and use this form starting with the advisor.

The transfer reduces the credits needed to graduate. In addition, depending on the transfer subjects, some fo the required courses or electives might be already covered giving you waivers, see waiver section.

3. Waiver

You may get a waiver of required courses, in your program or in a certificate if you are doing a certificate. This can be based on prior undergraduate work (especially at UMSL but could be anywhere, but those outside of UML have to be reviewed), or your transfer, or on a set of courses or general experience. Other than UMSL courses, all others must be reviewed based on descriptions, syllabi, etc. If this is based on transfer, it should be done at the same time as transfers.

Waivers are recorded in the department.

4. Restrictions

Newly admitted students may have G06 restrictions, listing foundation courses they are missing. These restrictions can be waived based on proper documentation, or otherwise, the courses have to be taken in the first and not later than in the first two semesters. More information here.

- 5. After the previous steps, you know whether
 - a. There are any restrictions you need to take that will not be a part of your MS
 - b. How many credits you have, how many remain, what courses you have taken or waived
- 6. Given the remaining credits you need, divide it by how many credits you intend to take per semester, this tells you how many semesters you will be here (you may include summer). International students have to be full-time (9 credits) but there is potential reductions upfront and at the end, see here. More than 9 credit per semester is questionable and needs to be cleared by the advisor.
- 7. Make sure you also know what courses are required (minus those waived) in your program and option if any.
 - For MS Computer Science check here. If following the certificate option you have fewer required courses but then you must also cover the certificate courses. For MS in Cybersecurity, check here.
- 8. Given the time frame here, review the <u>course rotation</u> to decide which 6-thousand level course you will cover. If thesis, make sure you work with a faculty to do the thesis with. If a course, note any prerequisite that may be necessary unless you can waive it, and the semesters offered.
- 9. The remaining needed credits are those you can cover with any CS courses (we also allow credits from outside CS, see here).

- 10. With the courses still needed and the time frame, consult the <u>course rotation</u> and the actual schedule for the next semester (if published) to schedule a feasible plan for the entire time of study, including next semester.
- 11. If the upcoming is your last semester in either certificate or program, an appropriate form (M4) must be filed about mid-semester. Note that if you intend to graduate under the certificate you must file for certificate graduation before you file for MS graduation, a semester before or a minute before.