

QAs

Ph.D. Mathematical and Computational Sciences Computer Science Option

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More information

- [Departmental](#)
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Ph.D. Admission, Transfers, Timing, Load

Can I be admitted without related MS or without any MS?

MS in a related field is preferred, but strong candidates with unrelated MS, or even without MS, will be considered for admissions. Such applications will require other supporting evidence, see the [admission requirements](#).

Can I transfer some graduate credits if I do not have an MS?

Yes, subject to time limitations and residency requirements, see the [admission requirements](#) and [graduation requirements](#). Use form G3. Due to residency requirement, you can transfer total less than half of the required credits at UMSL.

Can I transfer some credits if I do have an MS?

Yes, courses taken for your MS are included in your courses counting toward Ph.D. here and they are not subject to the 8-year limitation. They need to be discussed with your advisor and will eventually be listed on D3. Due to residency requirement, you can transfer total less than half of the required credits at UMSL.

Can I transfer some additional credits after MS?

Subject to time limitations and residency requirements as above, up to 12 hours of graduate work after MS can be transferred.

Is there a residency requirement at UMSL?

Yes, the majority of coursework for the Ph.D. program must be taken from UMSL, online or physical. Therefore less than half can be transferred.

Can I take courses elsewhere while a Ph.D. student at UMSL?

Yes, must be approved and will count with other transfers subject to stated limitations. Currently, you may take 1 course from SLU/WU and it will count as an UMSL-resident course.

Are there time limits when I have to complete the program

There is a time limitation on courses to be used as part of the Ph.D. program. For some courses, this can be extended based on the subject matter. See the graduation requirements.

What do I need if I am an international student

See the [admission requirements](#) document for more specifics including deadlines.

Can I take the program part-time

Course load is a student's choice unless otherwise dictated. You can find the definition of [normal course loads and the definition of full-time](#). A student who has full-time employment normally pursues the degree part-time. All courses can be taken evening and/or online. There also are the rules on the [time limits on completion of degree requirements](#) and the requirements for minimum enrollment.

If I am required to be full time, can I take a reduced load

If you are an international student on a visa or financed by a specific program, you may be required to be taking a specific load such as full-time. The programs themselves do not require a full-time load.

Visa students need to be enrolled full time, see [normal course loads and the definition of full-time](#).

Such requirements can be waived in specific circumstances by using so-called equivalency hours.

- Students can apply for 3 credit equivalency (waiving 3 credit hours) based on language or other difficulties, typically in the first semester.
- GTA/GRA students can use up to 3 credit equivalency per semester when full time (20 hours/week), and two credit equivalency when between 10 and 19 hours a week.
- Students doing an MS thesis can use up to 8 credit equivalency in the last semester, which could be extended one semester.
- Students preparing for any part of the comprehensive examination may use 3 credit equivalency, for a minimum of 2 semesters.
- Ph.D. candidates, after passing the comprehensive examination, may use 8 credits equivalency per semester up to completion, subject to time limitations on the Ph.D.

Can I take courses or the program online

Any of the programs can be completed completely online. However, only an online-designated program guarantees the availability of the necessary online courses. For course availability, visit the [rotation](#). International students do not need a visa to be taking online courses without arriving in the US.

Ph.D. Qualifier

How can I pass the qualifier requirement

This is a standard test of your breadth and depth of studies. See the graduation requirements document for more information.

Ph.D. Candidacy and Graduation

What I need to do after passing the qualifier to move to candidacy

You need to select a research committee and either defend a survey paper or an examination in your proposed area of study. You also must have completed all coursework other than dissertation research. See the graduation requirements.

Can I change my research or committee when in candidacy?

Yes, but depending on relation to your previous area of study you may have to redo the survey paper or the examination.

Do I need to enroll in Dissertation Research

When in candidacy, you will have to be enrolled every semester. This should be your dissertation research credits, minimum of 1 credit. This will give full-time status to visa students or other students needing to be full-time.