QAs
Ph.D. Mathematical and Computational Sciences
Computer Science Option

Version 2020.12.23

More information

- Departmental
- Graduate school

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.

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.

Can I transfer some additional credits after MS?
Subject to time limitations and residency requirements, 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.

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 have full-time employment normally pursue 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 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.

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 1 credit. This will give full-time status to visa students or other students needing to be full time.