CMSC MS Overview

**Note:** If you are admitted to the PhD program, you can pick up a MS degree along the way by completing these requirements. Students admitted to MS wishing to continue to PhD would need to reapply for formal admission to that program.

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<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Research</th>
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| **Fall 1** | Take courseMake up a plan of courses to take to complete courses from the requirements (link) | If interested in research thesis  
- Contact members of the faculty whose work interests you and you may want to do a thesis with  
- Discuss project ideas and experience with PhD students  
- Enroll in CMSC801 to learn more about dept research. Take notes on talks for possible research projects. |
|          | If you are doing the scholarly paper route you will have the opportunity to take 2 more coursework in your chosen area. | **Attend Talks and discuss with faculty**  
Research talks and faculty job talks is a great way to learn breath and depth of the field, learn as well as how researchers turn questions into results.  
**Reach out to faculty**  
Find faculty you want to do research with. Discuss interests and see if they would advise you in CMSC798/799 to explore research topics. |
|          | Enroll in 400-level courses as needed.                                                         | If considering continuing to PhD, discuss with your adviser so you can gather proper recommendations and build your research portfolio to apply in Fall. |
| **Spring 1** | Continue coursework. Review MS requirements to ensure on track to meet  
- qualifying breath requirements  
- grade requirements. | **Ensure courses for spring will meet MS requirements.**  
**Ensure you have a paper idea or course project write-up plan to fulfill the scholarly paper requirement.** |
|          | **Ensure your coursework for Spring will meet graduation requirements.**  
**Begin applying for post-graduation employment and/or PhD programs.** | **Begin on your primary research with your adviser.**  
**Ensure your coursework for Spring will meet graduation requirements.**  
**Begin applying for post-graduation employment and/or PhD programs.** |
| **Summer 1** | Look for Internships or Research | **Explore potential research ideas. Keep in touch with your adviser to discuss progress and research for Fall. Target publication at prestigious venues.** |
| **Fall 2** | Ensure courses for spring will meet MS requirements. | **Ensure that you submit all proper paperwork for graduation:**  
[https://gradschool.umd.edu/calendar/deadlines/academic-deadlines](https://gradschool.umd.edu/calendar/deadlines/academic-deadlines) |
|          | Ensure you have a paper idea or course project write-up plan to fulfill the scholarly paper requirement. | **Finish or conduct research project, and publication. Craft it into a scholarly paper or a thesis with guidance from your adviser.** |