The department offers both thesis and non-thesis options for the Master of Science degree in computer science. The following requirements apply to both options.

1. **Graduate credits:** You must complete at least 30 credit hours of approved course work, with a B average. These courses must be at the 400-level or higher, with at least 18 credit hours at the 600-800 level. CMSC641, CMSC642, CMSC643, and CMSC644 can be used toward the 30-credit hours requirement, but cannot be used toward the 18-credit hours requirement (the registration for these courses is handled by OES). At least 21 credit hours must be in computer science courses. Students completing the MS degree without thesis may count 6 credits of CMSC 798 (excluding 798E or 798F) toward the 30 credit requirement. Courses from other departments must be approved by your advisor; you must submit a written approval to the Graduate Office prior to the start of the semester in which the course is to be done.

2. **Qualifying coursework:** You must complete at least four **MS qualifying computer science courses** at the 600-800 level in four out of the eight areas. You must complete two courses with at least A grades (A, A+) and two courses with at least B grades (B, B+, A-, A, A+). You must complete your qualifying coursework before the semester in which you apply for graduation.

3. **Residency:** You must complete at least two full-time semesters, or the equivalent, at this university (four semesters part-time are considered equivalent to two semesters full-time).

4. You must be registered for at least one credit in the semester in which you expect to receive your degree.

5. **Transferring graduate credits:** You may transfer no more than six credit hours from another university or another program at the University of Maryland, College Park (with the exception as noted below). If you wish to take these credits after you are admitted to the University of Maryland Graduate School, you may do this only with prior written approval of your advisor, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate School.

6. **Transferring graduate credits from the Graduate Certificate in Data Science:**
   You may do an internal transfer of up to 12 credit hours from the Graduate Certificate in Data Science. However, those courses (CMSC641-644) do not count towards the 18 credit hours required at the 600-800 level, nor do they count as MS qualifying courses; e.g., you must do additional 18 credit hours at the 600-800 level if you transfer 12 credit hours from the Certificate courses.

7. **Time limit:** You must complete all requirements for your degree no later than five years after the date you were admitted to the program.
8.3. Qualifying Coursework Requirement

Following are PhD coursework requirements for students starting the PhD program in Fall 2004 or later.

The current coursework requirements are as follows:

1. You must take 6 600-800 level MS/PhD qualifying courses spread over at least 4 areas, with no more than 3 in any one area; note that CMSC6. You must obtain at least 4 A's and 2 B's (A includes A- and A+, B includes B- and B+). You are expected to complete this within the first four semesters of starting your PhD program and you must do it within five semesters. Extensions past the fifth semester will only be granted in highly exceptional cases. You may substitute a course in another department with appropriate approval. (You can take a 400-level course for background, but it will not count towards your PhD coursework requirements.)

2. You must take a 1-credit course on How to Conduct Great Research, to be offered on a regular basis.

3. You are required to take two additional 3-credit 600-800 level courses, with the approval of your advisor. You must receive a grade of B or higher. There is no time limit on taking these courses. The courses may be seminar courses, including those offered outside of the CS Department. CMSC641, CMSC642, CMSC643, and CMSC644 may not be used to satisfy this requirement.

4. Field Committees will determine a list of acceptable courses and sections to be offered.