Student Services

- Administrative questions
- Questions about requirements
- General concerns about life at Columbia
- Issues you do not know who to talk to
- Suggestions and recommendations

Remi Moss
remimoss@cs.columbia.edu

Kathryn Angeles
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Jessica Rosa
Jessica@cs.columbia.edu

Chad Gurley
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Office Location: 450 Computer Science Building (Mudd)

http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/ms
Program Information

Key Goals of the MS Program

- Enrich the educational experience
  - Breadth Requirement - Exposure across broad areas of computer science
  - Tracks: Depth and more advanced study of a specialization area
  - MS thesis research option - Research experience, preparation for R&D career

- Enrich the extra-curricular experience
  - Build lifelong relationships
  - Enhance your perspectives
Tracks

- Computational Biology
- Computer Security
- Foundations of Computer Science
- Machine Learning
- Natural Language Processing
- Network Systems
- Software Systems
- Vision and Graphics

Track advisor for every track. Read web pages for detailed descriptions

More Track Options

- Personalized Track
  - For unusual cases, not covered by the standard tracks, such as multidisciplinary studies
  - Example: Quantum computing, combining computer science and physics courses
  - Program developed with a personalized track advisor

- MS Thesis Research Track
  - Thesis research advisor
Plan Your Program

- You need 30 graduate credits with GPA \( \geq 2.7 \)
- Program must fulfill the requirements of your track
  - General breadth requirement
  - Track Requirements & Electives
- Draw a plan of study in the first semester (even if tentative for the following semesters), and have it approved by your track advisor.

General Breadth Requirements

- Applies to all MS students in all the tracks
- Choose 4 courses from the following lists – 1 course from each group = 3 courses + 1 course from any of the groups
  - Group 1 (Systems): All CS 41xx courses except 416x, 417x; all 48xx courses; 4340, 4444, 4460
  - Group 2 (Theory): All 42xx courses
  - Group 3 (AI and Applications): All 47xx courses; 416x, 417x
Track Requirements

- **Required Track Courses**
  - Each track may require some specific courses
    - For example, the Network Systems Track requires
      - 4115 (Programming Languages and Translators)
      - 4118 (Operating Systems)
      - 4119 (Network Systems)
    - The Machine Learning Track requires students to take at least two out of the three courses
      - 4252 (Intro to Computational Learning Theory)
      - 4771 (Machine Learning)
      - 4772 (Advanced Machine Learning)

- **Track Electives**
- **General Electives**

Waiving/Importing Required Courses

- **Can waive required track courses that you have already taken at another institution**
  - Will need evidence that previous course is equivalent in content and level to the required CU course
  - No credit received, but can take another CS course in place of waived requirement
  - Still have to complete a minimum of 30 points to receive your degree
  - *Do this right away in the first semester.*
- **Must have received a B or better**
- **Complete import/waiver request in MICE**
  - Request will go to CU instructor for review
  - MICE will send you email to notify the outcome
- **Cannot waive breadth requirements or electives**
Electives

- The rest of the courses chosen from a list of electives for the track and general electives.
- At least 2 courses are required to be at 6000-level (advanced graduate).
- Electives let you direct your studies to a subarea of the track according to your interests.
- Allowed to take up to 3 points of non-tech/non-CS as a general elective – must be advisor-approved

Electives – Research Options

- Can do research in place of some elective courses
  - Project courses (E6901)
    - Get hands-on research experience
    - One (usually) or two semesters in length
    - 1-6 credits; typically 3 credits
- Maximum of 12 research and project credits can be applied to MS degree
- Good way to get to know a research area and faculty (recommendation letters)
- May lead to publications or CS technical report
- January 22 at 11am: Research Project Fair
Fieldwork (COMS 6910)

- Enables students to earn academic credits for the program-relevant work experience
- COMS W6910
- 1pt at a time, up to 3pts
- International students can apply for CPT work authorization after one academic year.
- Detailed instructions are sent via email. Please read carefully and thoroughly.
  - If you have questions, contact Jessica Rosa at jessica@cs.columbia.edu.

Advising

- For help with degree requirements – email gradvising@cs.columbia.edu.
  - Include UNI and track in email
  - Advising by tracks
- For help with course content and course approval – reach out to your faculty track advisor
  - Forward course approvals (substitutions and non-tech/non-CS) to gradvising@cs.columbia.edu.
Progress Check

- Degree Progress Checklists
  - Located on each track webpage
- Use this to plan/keep track of your degree
- Send completed form to either your track advisor or gradvising@cs.columbia.edu for progress check

Administrative Information
MICE

- Web-based database system for department records
- MICE accounts have been created for you. Check Columbia email for information on how to access account.
- Log-in to MICE at https://mice.cs.columbia.edu using your UNI and the initial password
- The menu that you will be using frequently is “Students.” Please try keep your student profile up-to-date.

Select a Track

- Choose a track based on your field of interest.
- Make selection on MICE.
- Once a track has been selected, we will assign you an advisor.
  - http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/ms/advisors
- Can change your track
  - Until beginning of the second semester
  - As long as the change does not require I-20 extension
- Select track by end of change of program period – January 29
Transferring Courses Taken At Columbia

- Through Continuing Education, UG, Special Registration
- Can transfer points up to 15pts provided that you did not use these courses for another degree
- Complete Advance Standing form – can be found at http://www.cs.columbia.edu/education/ms/regfaq
- Submit the form to gradvising@cs.columbia.edu

Course Registration

Citizens/PRs
- Full time Status - 12pts
- Part time Status - min. 3pts

International students
- Must be full time - 12pts
- Can be part time in the last semester
**Course Registration Via SSOL**

### Class is full:
- Waiting List

### Project:
- **Research/Project Fair**
  - January 22 from 11:00am-12:30pm; If you are selected to work on faculty research projects, email Kathryn Angeles and cc your project faculty supervisor for registration information.
  - Use the call # to register on SSOL.

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**Course Registration Via SSOL**

### Non-Tech Course:
- Up to 3pts
- Columbia grad course
- Must be relevant to the track
- Download Non-tech Elective Approval Form and get advisor approval
  - Forward the form to gradvising@cs.columbia.edu

### Non-CS course:
- Business School course – contact Business School
- IEOR course – complete their web form to petition
- Non-CS courses are not available to everyone who wants to take them
  - If approved, download Non-tech Elective Approval Form and get advisor approval
  - Forward the form to gradvising@cs.columbia.edu
Registration Dates

• Next registration dates
  o January 12-15, 2016
    ▪ Check SSOL for assigned registration time.

• Late Registration Fee
  o You must register for at least one course by Friday, January 15 to avoid a late fee.

• Change of Program Period
  o Tuesday, January 19– Friday, January 29
  o Can add/drop classes freely without financial penalty

• Registration changes after the Change of Program Period
  o Financial penalty
    ▪ No refund for the course you are dropping
    ▪ You will also be charged for the course you are adding

• Last day to drop classes
  o March 24– No Refund
  o International students are not allowed to drop courses if registered for 12 pts – must maintain full-time status.

• Last day to select Pass/Fail option
  o March 24
  o A course taken as P/F will not count towards your degree.
  o Pass is not calculated into your GPA, but a failing grade will count as a 0.

• Visit http://registrar.columbia.edu/content/registration-and-enrollment for more information.
Building Access

- Your Columbia ID is your access card
- Granted 24/7 access to:
  - CS Area
  - Clic Lab
- Project in CEPSR?
  - Need to apply for access in MICE
  - Put your project supervisor as your sponsor

CS Lounge:
- 24/7 access
- Keep it clean (Shared space)
- Fridge – Put your name on your food item(s). Remember to throw out your unwanted food
  - Others use the fridge too so please keep it clean.

FYI: Classroom Abbreviations

- MUD – Mudd Building
- SCE – Shapiro (AKA: CEPSR)
- HAM – Hamilton Hall
- PUP – Pupin
- CSC – CS Conference Room
- ENG – Engineering Terrace
- NWC – Northwest Corner
- CSB – Computer Science Building
Financial Opportunities

**COURSE ASSISTANT AND GRA**

- **Two types**
  - Standard – “grader,” $2500 stipend (no tuition)
    - Apply via MICE
  - CA Fellow – after 1st semester, tuition and stipend
    - Selective, more limited number of opportunities
    - Requirements: previous CA experience, recommendation letters
    - For more information, contact Tal Malkin (IA chair) at tal@cs.columbia.edu.
  - Commitment = 10 hours/unit (1 unit is 20-25 students); can only be a CA for up to 2 semesters
  - If you accept a CA position, you cannot have additional employment without talking to Chad and Remi.
  - CAs are chosen every semester.
  - www.ia.cs.columbia.edu


**GRA**

- Usually funded by individual faculty
- Typically, students start with research projects. If they do well, maybe GRA-ship.

**Career Development**

CONTACT JESSICA ROSA AT JESSICA@CS.COLUMBIA.EDU
Resources

- Center for Career Education
  - Resume/interview workshops
  - Individual counseling
  - Career Fair
- Company Information Sessions
  - Through CCE, Dept, ACM, ADI, WICS
- Alumni
  - Networking with Alums
  - Linkedin Group - CS@CU
    - Both current students and alums are members of this group.
    - Search for CS@CU group and request to join.
  - Twitter - @remimoss
    - For information on events, hack-a-thons, and other items
- Workshops
  - Resume workshop
  - Recruiting 101

Tips and Current Student Experiences
CS program is rigorous! - Some tips

- Try to eat well
- “Sleep” is important
- Exercise (Dodge Gym is included in your fees)
- Try to socialize with others – CS Dept and SEAS offer many social events throughout the semester. Look for these events in your email.
  - Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/mscscu/
- Don’t know what to do/problems? – We are here for you. Reach out to us.
  - Remi – remimoss@cs.columbia.edu
  - Kathryn – kangeles@cs.columbia.edu
  - Jessica – Jessica@cs.columbia.edu
  - Chad – chad@cs.columbia.edu
  - gradvising@cs.Columbia.edu

MS Student Experiences

- Anthony Dubis (ajd2194@columbia.edu) – graduated in Fall 2015
- Edward Liu (eml2170@columbia.edu) – last semester MS student
Any questions?

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OFFICE LOCATION: 450 COMPUTER SCIENCE BUILDING (MUDD)

VISIT:
HTTP://WWW.CS.COLUMBIA.EDU/EDUCATION/MS/NEWSTUDENTS