

Things to Know Before Starting the MCS

1. Utah Valley University's Master of Computer Science (MCS) has been developed as an evening program to allow working professionals to continue working while completing their degree. While theory and research are always a part of a graduate degree, - the UVU MCS focuses on relevant, practical learning. We designed the content of our courses and the scheduling of classes with working professionals in mind. As a result, MCS classes are always offered at 4:00 p.m. or later to give you the opportunity to work and attend class at night.
2. The MCS has very few prerequisites for classes to allow you more flexibility in setting your schedules. However, you are **strongly** encouraged to take **Core Classes** before taking **Elective Classes**. If you take **Elective Classes** before you complete the **Core Classes**, you may find you are missing some fundamental knowledge that the instructor expects you to know. This doesn't mean you will fail the class, but it can make the class more difficult to complete.
3. Because most of our students are already working professionally in the high-tech industry, we do not focus on running funded research projects. However, we do offer annual partial-tuition waiver scholarships. These scholarships are merit-based and competitive. The application for scholarships typically opens in January of each school year and closes in early July of each school year. Please contact Julie.Marr@UVU.edu for more information.

Some faculty members may have research money, but this is not guaranteed, and typically MCS students are already working full-time and are therefore not available to work as a student researcher. However, if you are interested in such a position, please talk to the Graduate Director or faculty.

4. If your GPA drops below **3.0** the Graduate School will place you on academic probation. This is University Graduate School policy, not an MCS policy. Please consult with the Graduate School if you are placed on probation.
5. The MCS degree requires completion of all courses with a grade of B- or better and completion of all required courses and elective courses for a total of 30 credit hours with an average GPA of 3.0 or higher.
6. The MCS requires a Graduate Project, a Graduate Paper, or a Graduate Thesis.
 - Graduate project/paper/thesis proposal presented to and accepted by the student's Advisory Committee.
 - Completion and defense of graduate project/paper/thesis (CS 6600 Graduate Project I and CS 6610 Graduate Project II must be taken consecutively; they **cannot** be taken concurrently); defense must be accepted by the student's Advisory Committee.