MS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

A student may pursue an MS with (1) a thesis option, or (2) a project option, or (3) a course-only option, or (4) an MS/MBA option. The MS program requires 30 total semester hours of graduate coursework (including thesis hours for the thesis option). All students must take the following three required courses (for all options).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS Required courses:	
CS 6150	Advanced Algorithms
CS 6460	Operating Systems
CS 6810	Computer Architecture

Students must show proficiency in the three fundamental categories: theory, systems and hardware. Students can request approval from the Track director to substitute the required courses with other electives, or more advanced courses offered by the School of Computing in the same or related subject areas. Substitute courses must be regular classes with exams and/or assignments, not seminar, readings, or independent study classes. Each advanced course can be offered as a substitute for only one required course.

Up to six semester hours of graduate-level course may be taken outside of the School of Computing. In general, seminars cannot be used as part of the required 30 hours. The one allowable exception is CS 7930: Colloquium. This course may be taken for up to two credit hours at one time as part of the Program of Study.

THESIS OPTION
A minimum of six thesis research credits (CS 6970) are required for the thesis option, and a maximum of 10 thesis research credits can be used on the Program of Study. At least one additional CS 6000-level or higher course is required (excluding independent study, and seminars). Additional 6000-level courses may be needed to reach the 30 credit minimum. At most three independent study (CS 6950) credit hours may be used to fulfill the required 30 semester hours, but only when the project is self-contained and independent of thesis research.

PROJECT OPTION
A minimum of three Independent Study credits (CS 6950) are needed for the project option, and a maximum of six Independent Study credits can be used on the Program of Study. At least four additional CS courses must be taken excluding independent study, seminars, or thesis research credit (CS 6970). Additional 6000-level courses may be required to reach the 30 credit minimum.

COURSE-ONLY OPTION
At least six additional CS courses must be taken excluding seminars, or thesis research credit (CS 6970). Additional 6000-level courses may be required to reach the 30 credit minimum. At most three independent study (CS 6950) credit hours may be used to fulfill the required 30 semester hours.

MS/MBA OPTION
At least four additional CS courses must be taken excluding independent study, seminars, or thesis research credit (CS 6970). One independent study must be taken. The remaining courses needed for this option are specified by the Business School as part of the joint MS/MBA Program.