

Master's Completion Information

Here is what you need to do to graduate with an MS or MCS degree:

Make sure that you have completed or will complete:

- 3 breadth courses

- Colloquium

- CS 8000 level course (2 of them if you are doing Plan C)

- MS thesis credits (10) if doing Plan A

- CSci 8760 if doing Plan B

- Total of 31 credits of a cohesive program of graduate level coursework

- **There is no longer a requirement for a minor or related field courses although they can still be considered an option for those interested in a minor or related field courses.

- **Remember that ALL CS courses must be taken A/F unless only offered S/N.

File your degree program form the end of your second to last semester or the very beginning of your last semester. The form must be signed by your advisor for Plan A and B and your committee members must have agreed to serve. The form is then submitted to Georganne for approval and signature of the DGS. Plan C students will submit their signed Plan C Certification form along with the degree program form directly to Georganne for DGS approval and signature. You must allow at least a week for us to process. We then submit it to the Graduate School. It can take from 2 weeks up to 8 weeks for them to approve. You will then get a copy of your degree program form mailed back to you at the address you provide on the form.

Once you receive this approval, you can go [on line](#) or to 316 Johnston Hall to request the graduation packet. In the packet will be your final defense form which you will bring to your defense if you are doing Plan A or B. Plan C students must submit that form to Georganne for DGS signature. There will also be an application for degree that must be submitted by you to the Office of the Registrar before the first working day of the month you intend to graduate.

In order to have the forms processed in a timely manner so that you can graduate when you desire, you must allow a minimum of 6 weeks although 3 months is best. However, please be sure that you have followed the course requirements so that you don't find that you are missing a course or requirement and must take an additional semester to complete.

International students must be aware of the conditions of their visa as to when they are considered done with their degree. You should check with ISSS to make sure that you understand the limitations. Plan C students are considered done when they have completed their last final which could affect any assistantship you have. Be sure you know before you make plans for CPT, OPT, returning home, etc.

Commencement is no longer being held by Graduate School but each college will decide if or when they will hold a ceremony. The College of Science and Engineering plans to hold a joint graduate student commencement the end of each spring semester. Dates and details will be sent out each spring semester.

If you have questions, please contact tolaas@cs.umn.edu.

Additional Information

- CPT credits do NOT count towards your degree and should not be included on your degree program form
- Audit courses also do not count and should not be included on your degree program form
- You must have prior permission from the department and not just your advisor to register for an independent study or directed research. If you are including a directed research or independent study on your degree program form, you must also include a brief description of that course, signed by your advisor.