Accelerated BS/MS Program

Frequently Asked Questions(FAQ)

What is Accelerated BS/MS Program?

The Accelerated BS/MS Program for Computer Science and Engineering allows students to transition easily from the Bachelor's to the Master's program.

When can I apply?

You are allowed to apply after taking at least 15 credits inside the department. This usually is about mid- to late-junior year. The application should be submitted by the last day of classes for that semester.

What are the admission criteria?

You must have at least 3.25 overall GPA. If overall GPA is less than 3.25, but your major GPA is significantly better, then we can consider making an exception.

When will I get my degrees?

When you finish your undergraduate degree requirements, you will apply for graduation for your Bachelor's degree. At the same time, you will submit the Accelerated Program Progression form to the Graduate Program Assistant. The form will progress you to graduate student status once you receive your Bachelor's degree. You will then receive your Master's degree after you complete the rest of the graduate degree requirements and apply for graduation.

What are the advantages of this program?

There are two advantages: (1) you do not need to take GRE exam; and (2) Two graduate elective courses can be counted towards both your Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

After getting admitted into the program, what if I want to drop from the program? Can I get my BS degree?

Yes. As long as you have satisfied the BS degree requirements, you can stop any time and collect your BS degree.

After dropping from the program, can I later resume the Accelerated BS/MS program?

No. Once you drop from the accelerated program and collect your Bachelor's degree, you are no longer eligible to apply for the accelerated program again. You would have to apply again to the Master's program.

Can I get financial support as an Accelerated BS/MS student?

Yes. Once you are in graduate student status, you can receive support as a teaching assistant (TA) or a research assistant (RA). If you are funded as a TA by the department, you are required to do a thesis.

I am not sure whether I am eligible or not. Whom should I talk to?

You can talk to the Undergraduate Program Advisor or the Graduate Program Director.

What is the application procedure?

You need to turn in an application packet with the following: (1) a completed Accelerated Program Application; (2) three letters of recommendation; (3) a statement of purpose; and (4) a Program of Study. You can drop off the completed application packet with the Graduate Program Specialist in ENB 342D.

When will my status change to graduate student status?

Your status will change to graduate student after you have complete the undergraduate degree requirements, applied for undergraduate graduation, submitted your Accelerated Program Progression form, and received your Bachelor's degree.

Will it affect my Bright Futures Scholarship?

No. Bright Futures will cover the graduate courses as long as they are required for your Bachelor's degree.

Do I need to maintain my GPA at certain level?

Yes, once your status changes to graduate status, you are required to maintain 3.0 GPA.

What is Statement of Purpose (SOP)?

It is a brief statement that explains why you want to pursue graduate studies, what your short-term and long-term career goals are, your research area of interest, and how the graduate degree will help you realize those goals.

I am a BSCpE student. Should I apply to MSCS, MSCP, or MSIT?

You may apply for either degree. MSCS is a Master of Science in Computer Science, MSCP is a Master of Science in Computer Engineering, and MSIT is a Master of Science in Information Technology.

What are the requirements for the MS degree?

They are the same as the regular Master's program i.e., 30 graduate credit hours. If you choose the thesis option, 6 of these credit hours are thesis hours.

Can I apply to Accelerated BS/MS Program after I have graduated with my Bachelor's degree?

No. Once you graduate with your Bachelor's degree, you no longer qualify for the Accelerated BS/MS program.

What graduate courses can I take as part of the Accelerate BS/MS Program?

You can only take graduate core courses, i.e., Theory of Algorithms, Computer Architecture, or Operating Systems in the case of the MSCS/MSCP programs. Ethical Hacking, Advanced Database Administration, or Advances in Object Oriented Programming courses in the case of the MSIT Program. Talk to your undergraduate advisor before making the selection to make sure you can use these courses as part of your undergraduate electives.