TO: Prospective Computer Science Graduate Students  
FROM: Computer Science & Engineering Graduate Committee

Thank you for expressing an interest in the Computer Science & Engineering Graduate Program at the University of North Texas. Deadlines for applying are as follows:

Spring Semester: October 1st   Summer Semester: March 1st   Fall Semester: March 1st

Please note that all materials for your application (including all official test scores, letters of recommendation, Assistantship Applications, and transcripts) must arrive at the admissions office by these dates, so you must request official GRE/TOEFL scores early enough to insure that they will arrive by the deadlines. Complete applications received by the deadline will be ranked and the top applicants will be admitted.

If your complete application has not been received by the deadline, it cannot be processed and ranked with the other applicants.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Effective October 1st, 2004

All students applying for graduate study (Master’s or Ph.D.) must take the GRE test. GRE requirements are based on statistics for all GRE scores of students interested in graduate study in Computer Science & Engineering, as released by ETS (the Educational Testing Service), and the requirements change as new figures are released by ETS. In addition, international applicants who do not have a previous degree from a U.S. institution must take the TOEFL exam. It is the student’s responsibility to have official scores sent from ETS to the University of North Texas and these scores must be received prior to the deadlines in order to be considered for admission that semester. From the most recent figures at the time that this document minimum acceptable scores are listed below:

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SCORES

Master’s Applicants:
GRE: Verbal – not required as of 10/2004
Quantitative – 700
Analytical (exam prior to 10/01/02) – 600
Analytical Writing (exam after 10/01/02) – 4.0
TOEFL: 580 written exam/237 computer exam
GPA: 3.0 in prior work
Letters of recommendation: None Required

PhD Applicants:
GRE: Verbal – 50%
Quantitative – 700
Analytical (exam prior to 10/01/02) – 600
Analytical Writing (exam after 10/01/02) – 4.5
TOEFL: 580 written exam/237 computer exam
GPA: 3.5 in prior work
Letters of recommendation: 3 required

A prior Computer Science & Engineering degree is not required for admission to the Master program, but the admissions committee will look for evidence that the applicant has a good chance of thriving in a scientific graduate program. A prior Computer Science & Engineering degree, or substantial Computer Science & Engineering experience, is required of Ph.D. applicants.

- Admission is competitive and based on the number of positions available in our program.
- Satisfaction of the minimum requirements listed above does not guarantee admission.
MAINTAINING GRADUATE STANDING

All graduate students are expected to make satisfactory progress toward a degree. An overall B average must be maintained, and two courses per year (not previously attempted) must be completed or evidence submitted showing activity in thesis or dissertation work.

For the M.S. degree, all requirements must be completed within six years from the date of admission. Students accepted in the Ph.D. program must be admitted to candidacy within three or five years from their date of admission to the Ph.D. program depending on whether or not the student already has a Master’s degree. After admission to candidacy, all requirements, including the dissertation and the final oral exam, must be completed within five additional years.

Any provisionally admitted student who fails to fulfill the requirements specified at admission or any student who for two successive semesters fails to maintain at least a B average will be dropped from the program, unless after a review of the student’s overall record, it is the opinion of the Graduate Committee that the student has demonstrated sufficient potential to pursue the graduate program successfully. In this case, probationary status will be granted for one semester.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

At this time, all Teaching Assistantship or Teaching Fellow (TA/TF) positions are offered to current Computer Science & Engineering majors who are attending classes at UNT. Prospective students are welcome to apply, but these positions are very rarely offered to potential new students. Research Assistant (RA) positions are selected by the individual professors from their current students. Students must submit a completed TA/TF Assistantship Application Form, separate from the Admission Application form, to the Computer Science & Engineering Department (available on the website at http://www.cs.unt.edu/~gradinfo/assist.pdf) and make sure that their complete admission application has arrived at the university by the appropriate deadline. To be considered, all application materials (including all official test scores, letters of recommendation, Assistantship applications, Admission applications, and transcripts) must be received at the department before the following deadlines:
  Fall Semester: March 1st      Spring Semester: October 1st

DEGREE OPTIONS FOR MASTER’S DEGREE

The Computer Science & Engineering Department offers three Master’s Degree options:
  33 hours which includes: 6 hours of thesis or 6-hours of Problem in Lieu of Thesis (prior to Fall 2003)
  36 hours which includes: a 3-hour project (CSCE 5900) or 6-hours of Problem in Lieu of Thesis (effective Fall 2003)
  39 hours of class work

The project option requires enrollment in CSCI 5900, which involves display of the project work at an open department reception, and a final project report that must be submitted to the graduate coordinator at least two weeks before the end of the student’s final semester.

The student may elect to include a minor in his/her degree plan if it is in support of his/her Computer Science & Engineering studies, and should be approved in advance of taking minor courses. Regardless of the number of hours completed for a minor, a minimum of 27 hours of graduate work in Computer Science & Engineering is required for completion of the degree. More details on getting approval for a minor are available from the CSCI department office.

Revised – 1/26/2005
Check http://www.cs.unt.edu/~gradinfo/ for updates and additional information.
MASTER'S DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

As an introduction to the department and to research in Computer Science & Engineering in general, every Master's student must take the CSCI 5170 course, *Teaching and Research in Computer Sciences*, during the first long semester they are enrolled in graduate classes. One hour of credit is obtained from this course.

**The Computer Sciences Core is divided into three areas:**

**Theory and Algorithms**
- CSCI 5450 – Analysis of Computer Algorithms
- CSCI 5200 – Automata Theory
- CSCI 5370 – Graph Theory for Computer Scientists
- CSCI 5750 – Parallel Processing and Algorithms

**Systems and Architecture**
- CSCI 5540 – Operating System Design
- CSCI 5700 – Computer System Architecture
- CSCI 5780 – Computer Networks
- CSCI 5470 – Modeling and Simulation

*(CSCI 5470 has been removed from the Core Options List effective 02/01/03)*

**Software and Programming**
- CSCI 5250 – Programming Languages
- CSCI 5270 – Computer-Human Interfaces
- CSCI 5520 – Software Development
- CSCI 5550 – Compiler Design
- CSCI 5530 – Topics in Software Engineering

Every student must take the first course in each area (CSCI 5450, CSCI 5540, and CSCI 5250), and at least one additional course from each area. A grade of B or better is required in each of these areas.

In addition, each student must take at least one breadth course, chosen from the following list:
- CSCI 5290 – Natural Language Processing
- CSCI 5350 – Database Systems Design
- CSCI 5410 – Artificial Intelligence
- CSCI 5420 – Computer Graphics
- CSCI 5430 – Methods of Numerical Computations

Additional courses should be selected from courses numbered 5110 and above (CSCI 5010-5030 do not count towards a graduate degree). Non-organized courses (such as CSCI 5890 and CSCI 5900) should be considered only as a special case, when standard course offerings cannot meet particular objectives, and as such only 3 hours of non-organized courses beyond the project or thesis requirement may be counted towards a Master's degree. Non-organized courses may only be taken after successful completion of the three required core courses.

- 33 Hour Thesis option - requires 6 hours of CSCI 5950
- 36 Hour Problem in Lieu of Thesis option - requires 6 hours total of CSCI 5920 and CSCI 5930
- 36 Hour Project option - requires 3 hours of CSCI 5900
- 39 Hour Option – requires 39 hours of straight coursework

All of the above options must be approved by the Major Professor, the Graduate Coordinator, and by the Graduate School prior to the last 2 semesters of classes by submitting a degree plan. Any changes to an approved degree plan must also be approved in writing by all of the aforementioned parties.

Revised – 1/26/2005
Ph.D. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to satisfying the general requirement for all UNT doctoral degrees listed in the Graduate Catalog, each Ph.D. student must satisfactorily complete the following:

1. A minimum of 12 hours of 6000 level organized courses in Computer Science & Engineering.

2. Comprehensive Examination:

   This exam is meant to test a student’s preparation for beginning Ph.D. work, and must be taken before the student has completed 30 hours of credit as a Ph.D. student. It will consist of 3 three-hour tests from three of six areas (Algorithms, Systems, Languages, Databases, Artificial Intelligence, and Scientific Computing). Every student must take the area exams in Algorithms and Systems, plus another exam chosen from the other four areas. The exam is scheduled early each Spring and Fall semester and can only be taken then. No student will be allowed to take the Comprehensive Exam more than twice. Students failing the exam will be dismissed from the program. Further details on the exam are available in a separate document.

3. Qualifying Examination:

   The Ph.D. Qualifying Exam is an oral exam that serves as a test of the student’s preparation for carrying out his proposed research. The student must have passed the Comprehensive Exams and must have a dissertation topic provisionally accepted by a potential advisor. With the advisor’s help, the student prepares a prospectus for the exam, which defines both the primary area of proposed research and supporting secondary areas, and outlines the student’s preparation in those areas. A Dissertation Committee is then appointed. This committee consists of at least three faculty members, one of whom is the dissertation advisor. The remaining members are chosen by the advisor in conjunction with the student. The examination prospectus is distributed to the committee well in advance, and an examination announcement invites all interested graduate faculty to attend as non-voting participants. After the oral examination, the student is asked to leave the room, the committee makes it decision, and the student is informed of that decision upon his return. The committee may require the student to take additional supporting course work, or to revise his proposal, or to submit a new dissertation topic if the proposed one is found to be unsuitable.

GRADUATE MINOR IN COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

9-12 graduate credits in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering are required for a Graduate Minor in Computer Science & Engineering. CSCI 5030 is a service course designed for students who are not Computer Science & Engineering majors. All minor classes must be presented in writing to the Graduate Coordinator and approved prior to enrolling in any of these classes.