

MS Plan I: Thesis

Students will write and defend a thesis. Students in the thesis plan have priority in obtaining departmental assistantship opportunities.

Foundational Courses: 0-18 Credits

- If needed, foundational courses will be assigned to you & outlined in your admission letter
- **Minimum grade of B to pass**
- Foundational Courses cannot be waived and **must be completed before** beginning graduate coursework
- Foundational Courses that are assigned do **not** count towards the overall 30 credit hours of graduate coursework requirement

Year 1

Year 2

Semester 1

Suggested: Take 6 credits of coursework

Category A (Core Courses):

3-6 Credits

- Choose 1-2 courses from:
 - CSCI 5446 Theory of Automata
 - CSCI 5451 Algorithms
 - CSCI 5593 Advanced Computer Architecture
 - CSCI 5573 Operating Systems
- 2 Category A courses are offered each semester on rotating basis
- Students must complete a minimum of 9 credits of Cat A to graduate.

Category B (Breadth Courses):

3-6 Credits

- Course options change each semester.
- Category C courses must be approved by the department prior to enrollment.
- Consult with faculty advisor on course selection.
- Students must complete a minimum of 9 credits of Cat B to graduate.

Semester 1 Milestones

- Attend mandatory MS Orientation.
- Consult with advisor to develop a Plan of Study by Week 10.

Semester 2

Suggested: Take 6 credits of coursework and 3 credits of Independent Study

Category A:

3-6 Credits

- Students must complete at least 3 Category A courses by this point.

Category B:

3-6 Credits

CSCI 5840 Independent Study:

3 Credits

- Students are **strongly recommended** complete at least one semester of Independent Study before beginning their MS Thesis credits.
- Up to 6 credits can count towards graduation requirements.
- Need approval from faculty research advisor.

Semester 2 Milestones

- Get accepted by research advisor to supervise thesis by end of 1st year.
- Students must submit a request to change advisors to the Graduate Coordinator before 2nd year.

Semester 3

Suggested: Take 3-6 credits of coursework and 3 credits of MS thesis

CSCI 6950 MS Thesis:

3 credits

- Must finish Category A coursework before enrolling in thesis.
- Students can only take 3 credits of MS Thesis courses per semester.
- Students must complete at least 6 credits in order to graduate.

Category B:

3-6 Credits

Semester 3 Milestones

- Transfer credit requests must be approved by the program and submitted at least one semester prior to graduation.

Semester 4

Suggested: Take 3-6 credits of coursework and 3 credits of MS thesis

CSCI 6950 MS Thesis:

3 credits

Category B:

3-6 Credits

Semester 4 Milestones

- Meet with your advisor for a graduation check.
- Apply for graduation via UCD Access.
- Submit MS Application for Candidacy.
- Schedule defense.
- Submit defense paperwork 2 weeks prior to defense.
- Submit thesis to ProQuest post-defense.

Congrats!

MS Thesis Graduation Requirements

1. Minimum 30 credits (24 credits of coursework, 6 credits of MS Thesis)
 - Category A: 9 - 12 credits
 - Category B: 9 - 15 credits
 - *Recommended:* Independent Study: 3 credits
 - MS Thesis: 6 Credits
2. Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (B- or higher)
3. All courses passed with at least a B-. Students cannot retake the same course; they must take a different course to satisfy the Category requirements.

