

CS@VT MS/PhD Plan of Study

Form Instructions

Last updated: 10/20/21

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| Student name: | This should be what VT recognizes your name to be. |
| Student ID#: | Last 4 digits only of your 9-digit VT ID number |
| PID: | Your PID (VT email address) |
| Semester Admitted: | To this CS graduate program, not necessarily the same as when you entered the university. |
| Are you a BS/MS student? | The answer to this question will be “No” for most students as only students who are part of the UG/G accelerated program option through VT will select this option. |
| Transfer Courses: | UG/G students who double count courses will add those as “transfer” courses (from their undergrad degree). Otherwise, these are courses NOT TAKEN AT VT. You should have obtained a signed form from an instructor authorizing credit for transfer to VT. Courses can be transferred as a specific VT course, or as generic credit in a CS area. A transfer course might be a non-CS course (in which case, it counts as a cognate). Indicate the VT course number transferred TO, and then the original course number/name and university it was taken FROM. The total number of transfer credits must be less than half of the graded coursework for your degree. |
| 4000-level CS Courses: | <i>You may have up to two. Only put CS courses here.</i> A small number of 4000-level courses have been approved as cognates, if you took one of those they go under the cognate list (but still count against the limit to 4000-level courses that you may count). |
| 5000-level CS Courses: | This is typically the majority of your graded coursework. |
| 6000-level CS courses: | Minimum of 1 for MS Thesis, minimum of 2 for PhD and MS Coursework-only. |
| Cognate Courses: | May have 1 for MS Thesis. Must have 1 to 3 for PhD and MS Coursework-only. Note that if you took a cross-listed CS@VT course but it appears on your transcript under the other department’s course number, you should not list it as a cognate course. <i>List it in the 4000, 5000, or 6000 table as appropriate using its CS course designation, with a note that it appears under the other department’s designation on your transcript.</i> |
| CS5944 Graduate Seminar: | Under new rules (Fall 2019 and after), students must take this twice along with either CS5014 or CS5024. Under old rules, students must take this three times. |
| Research and Dissertation: | List as needed to meet minimums. 6-9 credits of CS5994 for MS Thesis. 30 credits of CS7994 minimum for PhD (though upwards of 60 credits is typical to reach the minimum of 90 total credits). |
| Comments and Exceptions: | Here you can explain any exceptions or other unusual issues. |
| Advisory Committee: | Role is Chair, Co-Chair, or Member. See Grad website for details (MS requirements ; PhD requirements) on required composition of the committee. |
| Approvals: | Once you have completed and signed the form, send it to Sharon Kinder-Potter (skpotter@vt.edu) for Blacksburg students or Suzanne Boone (suzannejb@vt.edu) for NVC students to process using the (Computer Science Graduate Program Form Submission Portal). They will forward to Dr. Shaffer to sign. |