Welcome
Programs in the CS Department

- Congratulations to all new students in master’s degree and graduate certificate programs:
  - On-Campus:
    - Master of Science in Computing and Information Science (CIS)
  - Online:
    - Master of Science in Digital Forensics (DF)
    - Master of Science in Information Assurance and Cybersecurity (IAS)
    - Graduate Certificate in Cyber Security (Cert-CS)
    - Graduate Certificate in Data Assurance (Cert-DA)
    - Graduate Certificate in Digital Investigation (Cert-DI)
Website for Master’s Studies in CS Department

- Website for Master’s Studies in Computer Science Department:
  - https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/
Contacts

• Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor (Master’s and Graduate Certificate Programs)
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• Department Secretary
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# Graduate Faculty

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Preliminaries
Concentrations of Master’s Programs

• Two concentrations for the on-campus MS in CIS
  • Thesis
  • Non-thesis (i.e., Master’s project)

• One concentrations for the online MS in DF/IAS
  • Non-thesis (i.e., Master’s project)
Concentrations: Thesis vs Project

- Both thesis and project focus on choosing/developing research problems, conducting extensive literature reviews, and developing new methods to solve the problems, doing comparison studies by simulations or others, and writing documents.

- **Thesis**: is recommended to students who may continue in the same or another fields of studies. Thesis more focuses on traditional research topics, giving students the opportunity for creativity. Thesis describes the problem and present their findings, which is typically more involved than the project report, and needed to be publishable with its notable contributions.

- **Project**: is recommended to students to show proof that they hold a Master's degree. Projects are not as regimented as thesis. Project report describes their project and present their findings, and this document is typically less involved than the thesis.
Concentrations: Thesis vs Project

- Concentration Changes?
  - Every student was admitted with Non-thesis option.
  - Request to change your concentration from Thesis to Non-Thesis, or vice versa, must be completed before your penultimate-semester to graduate on time.

1 The second last semester of study before your graduation
Supervisor / Committees

• Supervisor
  • A professor who supervises your thesis/project by assisting you in selecting/developing research project for your thesis/project, and guiding on planning solving the problem, and helping you write thesis/project report of the exhibition or recital.
  • How to find a supervisor: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html#find_supervisor

• Committee Members
  • Professors who get actively involved during a thesis/project along with the supervisor. They can be a source of support, preventing the supervisor shouldering the entire responsibility.

• Supervisor/Committee members must be selected from the list of graduate faculty members: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html#list_of_graduate_faculty
Semesters

• **Academic year** includes three semesters: two long semesters (Fall and Spring), and **Summer** semester.

• **Penultimate semester:**
  • The second last semester of study before your graduation
  • E.g., If you are graduating in Spring 2022, then Fall 2021 is your penultimate semester.
  • [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html)

• **Terminal semester:**
  • The last semester of your study before your graduation
  • E.g., If you are graduating in Spring 2022, then Spring 2022 is your terminal semester.
  • [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html)
Comprehensive Exams

- Non-thesis master's students
  - are required to complete written comprehensive exams in core subjects where they received a grade of B or lower in their terminal-semesters (scheduled at beginning of the semesters), and
  - are strongly encouraged to complete all cores before/during their penultimate-semesters to avoid graduation delay.

- Exam Formats:
  - Open-book or Closed-book (TBD by core course instructors). Online students may be required to use Respondus LockDown Browser with webcam.
    - [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/forms/Respondus.LockDown.Browser.pdf](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/forms/Respondus.LockDown.Browser.pdf)
Requirements to Earn Degrees/Certificates
**MS in CIS (Thesis)**

- Must earn a minimum of **36 hours** of graduate credits
  - 30 hours of a coursework which is a combination of compulsory (core) and elective courses, and
  - 6 hours of thesis courses (COSC 6348 and COSC 6049)
    - COSC 6348 Thesis (Must register at your penultimate-semester)
    - COSC 6049 Thesis (Must register at your terminal-semester)
  - List of cores and electives:
    - [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-CIS.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-CIS.html)
- Must complete a **thesis** under the supervision of the faculty advisor and a supervisory committee.
MS in CIS/DF/IAS (Non-Thesis)

• Must earn a minimum of **36 hours** of graduate credits
  • 33 hours of a coursework which is a combination of compulsory (core) and elective courses, and
  • 3 hours of a master’s project course (COSC/DFSC 6347)
    • COSC 6347 (Must register at your terminal-semester)
• List of cores and electives
  • CIS: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-CIS.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-CIS.html)
  • DF: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-DF.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-DF.html)
  • IAS: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-IAS.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-IAS.html)

• Must complete **comprehensive exams** in core subjects where you received a grade of B or lower.

• Must complete a **master’s project** under the supervision of the faculty advisor and a supervisory committee.
Graduate Certificates

• Must earn a minimum of 15 hours of compulsory (core) courses
  • List of cores
    • https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-Certificates.html
Academic Probation & Suspension

- In order to achieve and remain in academic good standing at Sam Houston State University, a graduate student must maintain an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on all graduate coursework attempted.
  - **Probation**: A graduate student who falls below a 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of any semester during which one or more semester credit hours are attempted will be placed on probation.
  - **Termination**: If an enrolled student receives an "F" grade in any semester, or if an enrolled student on probation fails to achieve a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average at the close of the next semester following the starting of the probation, the student will be terminated.
DegreeWorks

- Access your *DegreeWorks* to review your degree plan and carefully plan your graduation.
  - DegreeWorks: [https://degreeworks.shsu.edu/gateway/DashboardServlet/](https://degreeworks.shsu.edu/gateway/DashboardServlet/)

- **You must read carefully below the suggested degree plans to graduate on time** (continued in the next slides).
  - CIS Degree Plan: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-CIS.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-CIS.html)
  - DF Degree Plan: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-DF.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-DF.html)
  - IAS Degree Plan: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-IAS.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-IAS.html)
  - Certificates Degree Plans: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-Certificates.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/study-plans-Certificates.html)
Suggested Degree Plans

• Master’s with Thesis Option:
  • **Penultimate semester**
    • Must register for COSC 6348.
    • Find a supervisor and form your committee members.
    • Start working on your thesis under your supervisor’s supervision.
    • Details: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html)
  • **Terminal semester**
    • Must register for COSC 6049.
    • Apply for Graduation and Degree with Registrar's Office.
    • Complete your thesis
    • Defend your final thesis presentation
    • Details: [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html)
Suggested Degree Plans

• Master’s with Non-Thesis (Project) Option:
  • Penultimate semester
    • Complete your cores by now.
    • Find a supervisor and form your committee members.
    • Start working on your project under your supervisor’s supervision.
    • Details: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html
  • Terminal semester
    • Must register for COSC/DFSC 6347.
    • Apply for Graduation and Degree with Registrar's Office.
    • Complete your project.
    • Defend your final project presentation.
    • Details: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html
Suggested Degree Plans

• Certificates Program:
  • Terminal semester
    • Complete Graduate Certificate Form.
    • Complete cores.
    • Details: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html
Forms for New Students

• First-semester students must complete the To-Do List listed in the following webpages.
  • CIS: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/new-CIS.html
  • DF: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/new-DF.html
  • IAS: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/new-IAS.html
  • Certificate: https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/new-Certificates.html
Forms for Existing Students

- **Penultimate-semester students**
  - Every MS student in CIS, DF or IAS graduating within two semesters must read carefully and follow the instructions listed in the following webpage.
  - [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/penultimate.html)

- **Terminal-semester students**
  - Every MS in CIS/DF/IAS and certificate student graduating within one semester must read carefully and follow the instructions listed in the following webpage.
  - [https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html](https://www.shsu.edu/mka012/graduate/terminal.html)
Registration Strategies

- Most graduate courses only appears once in a calendar year. If you see a course you want to take or must take, then go ahead and register. Do not wait.

- For non-thesis master’s programs, try to complete core as early as possible as the comprehensive exams are scheduled at the beginning of your terminal semester.
Registration Strategies

- **Transferring Credits**
  - From a certificate to a master's program: up to 5 courses (15 credits)
  - From a master to a master: up to 2 courses (6 credits)

- **Maximum Credits Per Semester**
  - Student can take 1 to 4 courses per semester
  - International student must take at least 3 courses per semester unless
    - they are graduate assistants who can get a course waiver per semester, and/or
    - they are in their termina-semester and need a less course load to complete the degree program.
  - Check carefully with a Graduate Advisor and the International office.
Registration Strategies

• **Length of study**: degree programs allow max 6 consecutive years.

• **Admission Deferment / Resignation / Taking Semester Off**:
  • If you do not start your first semester not enrolling in any courses, you must defer your admission to a future term, otherwise new application through ApplyTexas.org is required to return to the program.
  • If you resign at your first semester, a new application through ApplyTexas.org is required to return to the program.
  • If a student is returning after not taking any classes during two long semesters (Fall or Spring), a new application through ApplyTexas.org is required to return to the program.
Scholarships & Assistantships
Scholarships

- **College of Science and Engineering Technology (COSET) Scholarships**
  - **COSET Graduate Achievement Scholarship**
    - The deadline of application for the Fall semester is by July 1, and Spring semester is by December 1
    - (Recommendation Letter from the nominating individual is mandatory.)
  - **COSET Graduate Recruitment Scholarship**
    - The application deadline for the Fall scholarship is July 15th, and the application deadline for the Spring scholarship is November 15th.
Scholarships

• The Graduate School Scholarship
  • The GS General Scholarship
    • The GS General Scholarship is competitively awarded each semester of the academic year. Graduate students may apply every semester during their course of graduate study at SHSU and may receive the award more than once.
    • Part-time students are also eligible. Certificate students are also eligible.
Graduate Assistantships

• Research Assistantship (RA)
  • Contact individual professors for possible grant support

• Departmental Teaching/Graduate Assistantship (TA/GA)
  • Contact Dr. Narasimha Shashidhar (Chair of Departmental Graduate Assistantship Committee): karpoor@shsu.edu