CONTACT US

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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THE SOLUTION IS NOT IN THE TEXTBOOK

Software Engineering is a creative discipline, combining art and science, requiring leadership and pragmatism. Our focus is not to train, but to educate. We help students build a strong foundation of theory and best-practice knowledge, which they can apply in a variety of technical and business environments today and in the future.

AN ADVANCED DEGREE IN TWO YEARS

Our Master of Science in Software Engineering (MSSE) program is designed for working professionals. The curriculum builds on the experience of participants. We keep class sizes small and most homework is team-oriented. Our students often learn as much from each other as from the faculty and course materials. MSSE students find that they learn something each week that can be applied immediately in their professional practice.

STUDY WITH THE BEST

Why an SE degree from the University of Minnesota? The University of Minnesota is the region’s premier research institution and the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CS&E), under which the University of Minnesota Software Engineering Center (UMSEC) and the MSSE program is housed, is the only Ph.D. granting computer science department in the state. The CS&E department enjoys an international reputation for its excellence in research. You will study with top researchers and highly-experienced professionals who have proven themselves as superb teachers. You will have access to cutting-edge research and the people who are engaged in it. If you are so inclined, you may join a research group and make your own contributions. You will find a wealth of resources and ideas that will enhance your educational experience and your own professional practice.
CONTINUED SUPPORT
Learning does not stop at the end of the semester. Our program boasts a lifelong professional and personal network.

MSSE PROGRAM FORMAT
The MSSE program is a two-year, full-time program that meets on alternating Fridays and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with a break for lunch. Students commonly negotiate about 8 Fridays off per semester with their employers. The average time spent on the program is between 16 and 24 hours per week, including time spent in class. There is a summer break from June until September between the first and second years of the program.

CURRICULUM
The MSSE curriculum is fixed for the first three semesters. The fourth semester includes electives, one of which is an optional, independent project. A total of 30 semester credits and satisfactory performance on at least three class projects is required for graduation.

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Software Engineering 1</td>
<td>Software Design</td>
<td>Software Architecture</td>
<td>User Interface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Seminars</td>
<td>Software Test &amp; Verif.</td>
<td>Industrial Seminars</td>
<td>Elective I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 credits</td>
<td>8 credits</td>
<td>7 credits</td>
<td>8-9 credits</td>
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Elective II
SEMINARS
Examples:
• Legal & Intellectual Property Issues for Software Engineers
• Software Re-Engineering and Maintenance
• Configuration Management
• Internet Commerce
• Data Warehousing & Data Mining
• Software Engineering Ethics
• Extensible Programming Languages
• Robotics & Real-Time Systems
• Software Engineering in a Start-Up Environment
• Peer-to-peer networking and botnets

ELECTIVES
Choices vary year-to-year based on faculty availability and class vote.
Examples:
• Real-Time & Embedded Systems
• Big Data Strategies & Analytics
• Enterprise Application Development
• Web Application Development
• Dynamic Languages
• Independent Project
• Data Network Security
• Mobile Application Development

PROGRAM COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MSSE</th>
<th>St. Thomas MSE</th>
<th>UMN CS MS (Part Time)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Length</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>3.5 years</td>
<td>5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Meeting Times</td>
<td>Alternate Fridays and Saturdays</td>
<td>Weekday Evenings</td>
<td>Weekday Evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year Cost</td>
<td>$19,000*</td>
<td>$11,587</td>
<td>$9,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>$38,000*</td>
<td>$42,960</td>
<td>$47,319</td>
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</tbody>
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*Based on FY12 costs for each program
*Assumes per year increase matching 2010-2012 historical data: 4.5% for St. Thomas and 8% for UMN CS MS
*Figures compiled from publicly available sources
*Comprehensive fee for students entering in Fall 2016 has not been determined
TUITION AND FEES
The MSSE features one comprehensive fee per semester for each entering class. The fee is guaranteed to stay the same throughout your program if you attend 4 consecutive semesters, excluding summer. The comprehensive fee includes textbooks, tuition, mandatory fees, parking, breakfast catering and more. The comprehensive fee for students who started fall 2015 is $9,750 per semester for four semesters. The fee for students entering fall 2016 has not yet been determined. Other potential fees include a one-time installment fee per semester if you are paying your student bill incrementally and late fees if the student bill is not paid by the due date.

FINANCIAL AID
Financial aid is available for the MSSE program. For more information, see the financial aid website: admissions.tc.umn.edu/CostsAid/finaid.html or contact Jim Parker at j-park1@umn.edu or 612-626-0750.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
The MSSE program is selective, and applicants are expected to have professional work experience prior to joining the program. Applicants are normally required to be currently employed with at least one year of work experience, a BS or BA in Computer Science or a related field, and at least a 3.0 grade point average. Other educational backgrounds are considered if professional experience in the field is substantial. GRE results are not required.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
International students should meet the standard entrance requirements and also have a Green Card or Work Visa, official transcripts in English, and have a Minimum Internet Based TOEFL score of 79 or above (with section scores of 21 on writing and 19 on reading) or minimum MELAB score of 80. It is recommended that international students apply by May 15th to allow extra time to ensure that visas can be confirmed and all application materials can be obtained from non-
US institutions.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- [www.msse.umn.edu/application-procedure](http://www.msse.umn.edu/application-procedure)
- Early application deadline - March 31, 2016
- Final application deadline - July 1, 2016

1. Complete the Graduate School Online Application

   You may start, save, and return to it at a later time. The application fees are $75 for U.S. and $95 for International applicants. Send all official transcripts from previous academic institutions to the Graduate School. Use the same “statement of purpose” that you will submit with your MSSE Online Application. Do not include recommenders in this application.

2. Complete the MSSE Online Application

   This form must be completed and submitted in one session. There is no application fee.

   Include your Graduate School Application number (Apply Yourself ID).

   Provide the names and email addresses of two people who will recommend you for the MSSE program. Two colleagues are acceptable (with at least one person who has supervised your work). Only enter this information in the MSSE application, and do NOT include it in the application to the graduate school.

   Upload a file that contains the statement of purpose AND curriculum vitae (CV) or resume in one document.

   - Your statement of purpose should be limited to one page, explaining your immediate and long-range occupational objectives in relation to software engineering, being specific about your particular areas of interest. Please describe your current job responsibilities, career goals, and how these fit into the MSSE program. Also include your professional experiences with software engineering.

   - Your CV or resume should include your educational background and degrees, professional experience, any teaching or research experience, a list of papers or publications (URLs included), computer languages in which you are proficient and any other information that will advance your application.