

Request for Grad Track Pathway

A Grad Track Pathway (GTP) offers early provisional admission to the master's degree program to exceptional undergraduate students, and is designed for these students to earn coursework credit towards their master's degree, while completing their bachelor's degree in the same discipline. An instance of the Grad Track Pathway is defined by a set of graduate level courses (no more than nine credit hours) that apply towards a bachelor's degree, and then also towards the associated master's degree.

College: College of Engineering and Computing
Department: Computer Science
Degree Program: B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science

Catalog Year Effective: FS2020

Choose One: Thesis Non-thesis
 Both

1. **Description of (and rationale for) the proposed pathway:**

Undergraduates currently majoring in Computer Science at Missouri S&T may opt to apply for a Grad Track Pathway, which allows students to transfer nine credit hours from their Missouri S&T bachelor's degree to their Computer Science master's degree. In this pathway, a student can achieve both degrees faster than if pursuing the degrees separately. The benefits of the pathway for admitted students include:

- nine hours of 5000-level or above Computer Science coursework may be transferred from their Missouri S&T bachelor's degree to their Computer Science master's degree,
- the credit hours taken as part of the pathway may be taken at the lower undergraduate tuition rate,
- the GRE is not required for admission into the master's degree, and
- work on a thesis project may begin before the bachelor degree requirements are completed (if thesis option is chosen).

2. **Administration of the pathway (verify that all appropriate undergraduate learning outcomes are met through the approved courses):**

No MS degree requirements are changed. The MS degree may be a thesis or non-thesis option. To be admitted, the student must complete the Grad Track Pathway Admission and Course Approval forms. To be admitted, the student must have the approval of their undergraduate CompSci academic advisor. To be admitted to the thesis option, the student must also have the recommendation of a CompSci faculty member, who agrees to serve as the graduate thesis advisor. The program may be combined with existing honors research and emphasis area options. Admitted students will only have an undergraduate record in the Registrar's Office. Once they complete that bachelor's degree, and then apply to the MS program, and are admitted into the master's degree, they will then have a graduate record in the Registrar's Office.

The Grad Track Pathway Admission and Course Approval forms must be completed when the student has one year left in the bachelor's degree (excluding the semester in which they are currently enrolled). Courses to be transferred will be identified on this form, and on the graduate Form 1, which is submitted after the student has been accepted to the master's program. Students must apply for admission to the master's program, but will not be fully accepted until meeting all undergraduate degree requirements, and earning their bachelor's degree. Any additional graduate credit courses desired to be taken must conform to existing dual-enrollment procedures, independently of the GTP.

3. **Admissions criteria:**

To be eligible for the Grad Track Pathway, a CompSci undergraduate student must be:

- one year from graduation of their bachelor's degree (excluding the semester they are currently enrolled)
- have at least a 3.50 GPA in all CompSci courses taken at Missouri S&T,
- have a 3.0 cumulative GPA.

4. **Standards and procedures for monitoring undergraduate student progress to degree completion:**

Students in the GTP will be admitted into the master's degree, so long as they meet CompSci graduate student academic performance requirements of:

- to remain in the pathway, the student must maintain good standing within the undergraduate CompSci program, and must maintain continuous enrollment at Missouri S&T,

- students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 until they receive their bachelor's degree, and
- students must receive grades of B or better in the graduate courses they enroll in as part of the pathway course sequence.

The semester admit term for the master's degree immediately follows the semester that the bachelor's degree is awarded. If the student exits the pathway before completion of the MS degree requirements, or fails to maintain continuous enrollment at Missouri S&T, the courses taken as part of the pathway may not apply toward graduate requirements in the event of future readmission. Credits earned in graduate level courses will be posted according to established registrar procedures to the undergraduate transcript, and will apply towards the student's undergraduate degree hours, as needed to obtain the undergraduate degree, and thus ensure all stated degree requirements are met. Once the bachelor's degree is awarded, the student can be fully admitted to the associated master's program, and once the Form 1 is approved, the courses from the pathway will be included on the student's graduate degree audit.

5. Graduate courses being placed in the pathway:

Three of the 5*** level 3-credit lecture-based in-major elective courses required by the undergraduate degree will be used as transfer credits toward the masters program. The nine hours of GTP-transferred lecture courses that will be taken as undergraduate credit must be approved by the student's undergraduate CompSci academic advisor, and can be denied by the academic advisor. Courses may not be undergraduate research, special problems, or courses transferred to the bachelor's degree. A lecture course co-listed with another department can only apply for these undergraduate requirements if it is under a CompSci registration.

6. Full-time faculty member designated to provide oversight:

Patrick Taylor

7. Additional information concerning this pathway (optional):

The student applicant is responsible for checking on how graduate coursework will affect scholarships and other financial aid. Once a student becomes a graduate student, they are not eligible for Federal Pell Grants, though are still eligible for Federal Financial Aid, and will be eligible for fellowships and teaching/research assistantships. International students should check with international affairs during completion of a Grad Track Pathway, to ensure immigration status will be maintained throughout the master's program.

Approved by:



Department Chair:

Date: 4/10/2020

Dean of College:



Date: 4/10/20

Curricula Committee Chair: _____

Date: _____

Dean of Graduate Studies: _____

Date: _____