Fast Track Sample Plans

Last Revised: June 27, 2024

This document describes sample plans for students on the 5-year Fast Track combined BS/MS in Computer Science. These plans are for the typical case where a student completes the undergraduate degree at the end of the 4th year and are a graduate student in the beginning of the 5th year.

Years 1-2

During the first two years of the undergraduate BS program, no specific action is needed other than making forward progress in the undergraduate degree and maintaining a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Year 3

By the third year, all 3000-level CPSC courses must be completed while maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA.

When you have completed all 3000-level CPSC courses, you can declare intent using the electronic form on the Fast Track website.   When declaring intent, a decision should be made on the specific MSCS program (General option, Data Science Specialization, or Software Engineering Specialization).

For the Data Science Specialization, students must complete MATH 2310 and MATH 2320 by the end of the junior year as well.

MSCS General Option – Course Option (Years 4-5)

	Fall	Winter	Spring
UG Senior (Year 4)	CPSC 4870 (5 cr) CPSC 4800 (3 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4880 (3 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4890 (3 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) *Other UG courses*
MSCS (Year 5)	CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5800 (2 cr)	CPSC 5200 (5 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) Additional credit (1 cr)	CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5890 (3 cr)

Notes:
- The seven CPSC 5xxx courses consist of:
    - Applied Algorithms: CPSC 5600 or CPSC 5610
    - Systems: CPSC 5510 or CPSC 5520
    - Software Development: one of several courses
    - Four electives
- It is recommended for students to take 5000-level courses that fulfill categorical requirements (applied algorithms, systems, and/or software development) during year 4 as this provides more flexibility in the 5th year.
- The one additional credit (Winter – Year 5) is needed to get to 36 credits required by Seattle University. Options include an independent study (requires finding a faculty member), internship (a good time is the summer between year 4 and year 5),or taking another course (requires more than 1 credit as the department does not offer 1 credit courses).

MSCS General Option – Research Option (Years 4-5)

	Fall	Winter	Spring
UG Senior (Year 4)	CPSC 4870 (5 cr) CPSC 4800 (3 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4880 (3 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4890 (3 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) *Other UG courses*
MSCS (Year 5)	CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5800 (2 cr)	CPSC 5200 (5 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5990 (4 cr)	CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5990 (5 cr)

Notes:
- The six CPSC 5xxx courses consist of:
  - Applied Algorithms: CPSC 5600 or CPSC 5610
  - Systems: CPSC 5510 or CPSC 5520
  - Software Development: one of several courses
  - Three electives
- It is recommended for students to take 5000-level courses that fulfill categorical requirements (applied algorithms, systems, and/or software development) during year 4 as this provides more flexibility in the 5th year.
- To meet the minimum 36 credits needed, students should register for 9 credits of CPSC 5990 (Graduate Research Project) instead of the usual 8 credits.

MSCS with a Specialization in Data Science (Years 4-5)

	Fall	Winter	Spring
UG Senior (Year 4)	CPSC 4870 (5 cr) CPSC 4800 (3 cr) CPSC 5305 (3 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4880 (3 cr) CPSC 5310 (5 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4890 (3 cr) CPSC 5320 (3 cr) CPSC 5330 (3 cr) *Other UG courses*
MSCS (Year 5)	CPSC 5520 (5 cr) CPSC 5610 (5 cr) CPSC 5800 (2 cr)	CPSC 5830 (5 cr) Data Science Elective (5 cr)	CPSC 5200 (5 cr) SW Development (5 cr)

Notes:
- This plan requires 14 credits of 5000-level courses in year 4. Ten credits will still double count. The excess four credits will only apply to the graduate program. They will not apply to the undergraduate program and cannot be used to meet the 180-credit requirement for all undergraduate students.
- There is very little flexibility in this plan as required data science courses are offered once per year. They are all needed to take CPSC 5830 (Data Science Capstone) in winter of year 5.

MSCS with a Specialization in Software Engineering (Years 4-5)

	Fall	Winter	Spring
UG Senior (Year 4)	CPSC 4870 (5 cr) CPSC 4800 (3 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4880 (3 cr) CPSC 5200 (5 cr) CPSC 5120 (3 cr) *Other UG courses*	CPSC 4890 (3 cr) CPSC 5210 (5 cr) *Other UG courses*
MSCS (Year 5)	CPSC 5810 (4 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr)	CPSC 5820 (4 cr) CPSC 5800 (2 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr)	CPSC 5xxx (5 cr) CPSC 5xxx (5 cr)

Notes:
- The five CPSC 5xxx courses consist of:
    - Applied Algorithms: CPSC 5600 or CPSC 5610
    - Systems: CPSC 5510 or CPSC 5520
    - Software Development: one of several courses
    - Two electives
- This plan requires 13 credits of 5000-level courses in year 4. Ten credits will still double count. The excess three credits will only apply to the graduate program. They will not apply to the undergraduate program and cannot be used to meet the 180-credit requirement for all undergraduate students.
- There is very little flexibility in year 4 of this plan as the required software engineering courses are needed to take the software engineering capstone project (CPSC 5810 and 5820). The capstone project only starts in the fall.