

**College of Computer and Information Sciences
Department of Computer Science**

**Master of Science in Computer Science
(thesis option)**

Academic Year 1431/1432

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Introduction

Computer Science Department is one of the largest departments in Computer and Information Sciences College. It was established in 1404/1405. Computer Science field is one of the most important fields in Information and Computer Technology. It includes many areas, including: databases, networks, graphics, artificial intelligence, programming languages, and software engineering. The department has graduated hundreds of students from its BS and MS programs.

Degree Name:

Master of Science in Computer Science (thesis option)

Program Objectives:

1. To provide specialized studies in computer science
2. To encourage fundamental and applied research in computer science
3. To bridge the gap between the university and its industrial and technological environment
4. To give its graduates a serious scientific and technical training letting them excel in their professional life

In this respect, the graduate program in Computer Science covers the major topics in Computer Science thought to provide the type of student preparation mentioned above. It is our belief that the department must serve a wide stream of students, which will undoubtedly be coming with varying backgrounds and objectives. For this reason, the program proposed herein has been stretched out to cover most of the important areas of computer science: Computer Networks, Database Systems, Software Engineering, Computer graphics and Human-machine Interaction, Artificial Intelligence, and Programming Languages.

Admission Requirements:

In addition to the conditions enumerated in the 15th article of the unified law organizing the graduate studies in Saudi universities, the candidate has to fit the following criteria:

1. to obtain a B.Sc. degree in Computer Science or equivalent
2. to pass an entrance examination

Besides, the department of Computer Science may grant provisional approval to candidates with a B.Sc in a different area with the requirement that they succeed in B.Sc level courses in the following fields: structured programming, data structures, operating systems, discrete mathematics.

Degree Requirements:

1. Successful completion of a minimum of 26 credit hours of graduate courses.
2. Completion and successful defense of a thesis.

Program Structure:

26 credit hours and a thesis are required:

Course code	Area	Credit hours
--	5 core courses	14
--	4 elective courses	12
CSC 600	thesis	-
	Total	26

Courses

1. Core Courses:

All students must take these courses.

Course code	Course title	Credit hours
CSC 512	Algorithms Analysis and Design	3
CSC 524	Computer Networks	3
CSC 541	Advanced Software Engineering	3
CSC 581	Advanced Database Systems	3
CSC 595	Seminar and Discussions	2
Total		14

2. Elective Courses:

The student must choose 4 courses from 2 tracks.

Track	Course code	Course title	Credit hours
Computer Systems and Networks	CSC 519	Computer Security	3
	CSC 520	Networking in the TCP/IP Environment	3
	CSC 523	Distributed Systems	3
	CSC 527	Design and Implementation of Real-time Systems	3
	CSC 528	Interconnection Networks	3
Database Systems	CSC 586	Hypermedia and Geographical Information Systems	3
	CSC 587	Web Databases and Information Retrieval	3
	CSC 588	Data Warehouse and Mining Systems	3
Software Engineering	CSC 543	Software Quality Management	3
	CSC 546	Designing Object-Oriented Software Systems	3
	CSC 547	Software Measurements	3
	CSC 548	Software Projects Management	3
Computer Graphics and Human-Machine Interaction	CSC 572	Advanced Computer Graphics	3
	CSC 573	Numerical Algorithms and their Applications in CS	3
	CSC 574	Human-Machine Communication and User-Interface Design	3
	CSC 576	Graphics and Multimedia Applications	3

	CSC 578	Advances in Multimedia Applications	3
Artificial Intelligence	CSC 558	Pattern Recognition and Image Processing	3
	CSC 561	Expert Systems and Knowledge Engineering Applications	3
	CSC 562	Artificial Intelligence	3
	CSC 563	Neural Networks and Machine Learning Applications	3
	CSC 566	Advanced Applications of Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning	3
	CEN 545	Digital Image Processing	3
	Programming Languages	CSC 535	New Advances in Programming Languages
CSC 551		Automata, Calculability and Formal Languages	3
CSC 552		Computational Linguistics	3

Program Schedule

First Semester

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
CSC 512	Algorithms Analysis and Design	3
CSC 524	Computer Networks	3
CSC 541	Advanced Software Engineering	3
Total		9

Second Semester

Course code	Course Title	Credit hours
CSC 581	Advanced Databases Systems	3
-	A course from the first chosen track	3
-	Another course from the first chosen track	3
Total		9

Third Semesters

Course code	Course Title	Credit hours
CSC 595	Seminar and Discussions	2
-	A course from the second chosen track	3
-	Another course from the second chosen track	3
Total		8

Fourth and Fifth Semesters

Course code	Course Title	Credit hours
CSC 600	Thesis	-

Courses Descriptions

CSC 512: Algorithms Analysis and Design (3+0)

Review of major data structures - Basic design techniques - Divide and conquer - Greedy method - Backtracking - Dynamic programming - Heuristics - Parallel algorithms - Analysis of algorithms - Orders of magnitude - Lower bound theory - Time and space complexity - NP-hard and NP-complete problems - applications and examples - Correctness of algorithms - Structure of algorithms.

CSC 519: Computer Security (3+0)

Threats and vulnerabilities - Identification and authentication - Access control - Intrusion detection - Encryption and privacy - Security policies and their evaluation.

CSC 520: Networking in the TCP/IP Environment (3+0)

Review of Network Technologies for LANs and WANs - Inter-networking Concepts and Architectures - Internet Addressing - Internet Routing Protocols - Internet Error Control - Protocol Layering in Internet environments - Application development in a TCP/IP environment - Standard TCP/IP applications – other related topics.

CSC 523: Distributed Systems (3+0)

General concepts of operating systems - Distribution: concepts and definitions - Architecture of distributed systems - Control in distributed systems: centralized versus distributed - Concept and forms of transparency in distributed systems - Naming concepts - classification and Implementation of different naming schemes – Inter-process communication: concepts, mechanisms, and implementation - Resource allocation and implication on load sharing - Load balancing - Process migration - Clock synchronization: concepts, problems and solutions - Concurrency control in distributed environments: concepts, approaches and implementation.

CSC 524: Computer Networks (3+0)

Review of general concepts - LAN and WAN - Management of token ring networks - ISO model of seven layers - Network standard specifications - Urban networks - Large bandwidth networks - Gates - Network design and performance - Network programming - Error detection - Security and privacy.

CSC 527: Design and Implementation of Real-Time Systems (3+0)

Real-Time issues and concepts - Real-Time Systems: definitions and classification - Hard real-time systems and soft real-time systems - The concept of time and its importance in real-time systems - Real-Time applications - Real-Time Languages - Specific hardware interfaces for real-time systems: real-time data collection and processing - Different types and levels of Control in real-time systems (e.g. closed-loop control) - Real-time operating systems - Predictability in real-time systems - Introduction to methodologies for the design and implementation of real-time systems - Cases studies.

CSC 528: Interconnection Networks (3+0)

Introduction and background - The graph-theoretical approach - Criteria to evaluate interconnection networks - Issues in designing interconnection networks - Classification and evaluation - The need for higher-performance computers - Flynn's taxonomy - Computational speedup - Factors that limit speedup - Grosch's and Amdahl's laws - Different interconnection networks: Mesh Networks - Binary Tree Networks - Hypertree Networks - Pyramid Networks - Butterfly Networks - Hypercube Networks - Cube Connected Cycles Networks - Shuffle Exchange Networks - de Bruijn Networks - Star Networks and Star-Connected Cycle Networks.

CSC 535: New Advances in Programming Languages (3+0)

Review of formal languages - Standard models of programming languages - Concept of typing - Scope of variables - Subroutines - Logical programming - Execution environment - Visual programming - Object oriented programming - Design and programming of VOOR languages - Programming in visual environment - Visual programming and software engineering - Contemporary topics.

CSC 541: Advanced Software Engineering (3+0)

Review of known methodologies - Analysis of software requirements - Real Time software - Software Cost - Software Project Management - Software Quality - Software Testing - Software Measurements - Software Risk Management - Introduction to Object Programming - Case Study.

CSC 543: Software Quality Management (3+0)

Introduction to Quality Management Systems and Total Quality - ISO Quality System and its application to software industry - Capability Maturity

Model (CMM) and its five levels - Tick IT system - Quality Assurance - Application of Quality Systems - Software Tools for Quality - Case Study.

CSC 546: Designing Object-Oriented Software Systems (3+0)

Review of known methodologies and principles of Object Engineering - Unified Modeling Language (UML) - Comparative study of available methodologies - Conversion methodology to object design - Evaluation of object design and use of object metrics - Use of object methodology - Case Study.

CSC 547: Software Measurements (3+0)

Importance of measurements and metrics in software - Basics of measurements - Experimental measurements - Collection of measurements - Analysis of measurements - Measurements used for length, size, effort and time - Zeipf law - Structure measurements - Information flow measurements - Building software metrics - Planning for software measurements - Measurements of object oriented software - Tools used in software measurements - Case study.

CSC 548: Software Projects Management (3+0)

Introduction to project management - Basic activities of software project management - Charts used in project management - Evaluation and acceptance of project phases - Advanced techniques of project management as for maintenance - Project scheduling - Project insurance and arbitrage - Project management tools - Case study.

CSC 551: Automata, Calculability and Formal Languages (3+0)

Finite state automata and regular expressions - Regular sets - the Pumping lemma - Context-free grammars and derivation trees - Chomsky and Greiback normal forms - Context-free languages - Recognizers - Turing machines - recursive and recursively innumerable languages - Decidability problems - The halting problem - Rice's theorem and Chomsky hierarchy.

CSC 552: Computational Linguistics (3+0)

Phrase structure - Multilevel and transformational grammar - Grammar semantics - Recursive transition network - Augmented transition networks - Morphological analysis and other natural language analysis techniques - Cognitive modeling and theory of conceptual dependency - Discourse understanding - Language acquisition - Application: Machine translation - Text generation and textual analysis - Natural language interface.

CSC 558: Pattern Recognition and Image Processing (3+0)

Digital Image fundamentals - Images enhancement in spatial and frequency domain - Images degradation and restoration - Detection of discontinuities in images - Images segmentation - Representation of objects - Boundary, Regional, and Relational descriptors - Patterns and Pattern Classes - Recognition based on Decision Theoretic and Structural Methods - new topics in pattern recognition and image processing.

CSC 561: Expert Systems and Knowledge Engineering Applications (3+0)

A brief introduction to expert systems – A brief presentation of knowledge representation paradigms (the emphasis will be put on rule-based systems) - inference rules - resolution - basic aspects of reasoning under uncertainty - Case studies: MYCIN - CLIPS - Application Modeling in CLIPS.

CSC 562: Artificial Intelligence (3+0)

Introduction to AI problem solving - Knowledge representation - Automatic theorem proving - Learning by example - Learning by analogy - Learning by discovery - Self-reference and Self-production - Reasoning: causal reasoning - commonsense reasoning - default reasoning - measure-based approaches - reasoning with uncertainty - Confirmation theory - Belief theory - Necessity and possibility theory - Theory of endorsements - Spatial and temporal reasoning.

CSC 563: Neural Networks and Machine Learning Applications (3+0)

Approaches to machine learning: Explanation-based learning - Learning by observation and discovery - Analogical and Case-based Learning - Learning Models - Evaluation of Learning Algorithms - Experimental Methodology - Empirical Learning - Reinforced Learning and Genetic algorithms - Neural Computations: examples and applications - History of Artificial Neural System development - Fundamental Concepts and Models of Artificial Neural systems. Applications: Neural Network Simulation and Implementations and other emerging applications of Neural Algorithms and Systems.

CSC 566: Advanced Applications of Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning (3+0)

The content of the course may be designed from the areas: Image processing and analysis - Speech processing - Geographical Information System - Fuzzy reasoning - Computer vision - perception and any other emerging relevant topic(s).

CSC 572: Advanced Computer Graphics (3+0)

Mathematics for computer graphics in three dimensions - Hierarchical representation and basic shapes - Surfaces and curves in three dimensions - Three dimensional modeling - Solid bodies modeling - Three dimensional viewing - Visible surface - Illumination and shades - Texture mapping - Computer Graphics Systems: Open GL - Animation techniques - Case study.

CSC 573: Numerical Algorithms and their Applications in CS (3+0)

Review of vectors and matrices: transformation matrices in computer graphics, Computations of the normal vector to a surface - Introduction to Probability and Random Variables: Probability Density Functions in image processing - Introduction to Numerical differentiation and integration - Newton's and Gradient algorithms in image processing - Least-Squares algorithm, Curve fitting, COCOMO model calibration - Steganography algorithms - Introduction to MATLAB.

CSC 574: Human-machine Communication and User-Interface Design (3+0)

Introduction to Human sensory systems - Human memory and Human Learning User Interface Styles: Design Considerations - Dialog Content Design - Design Methodology - Visual Design - Basic Interaction-handling Models - Introduction to Human-Computer Dialog Management - Introduction to Visual Form Recognition: Pen Computing - Photography and other Visual Forms such as Finger Print Input Systems - Font and Symbol Design - Introduction to Speech Computing and other Forms of Input/Output - Speech Presentation - Speech Understanding and Recognition - Speech Generation - Gesture and Odor Input/ Output.

CSC 576: Graphics and Multimedia Applications (3+0)

Traditional Animation - Computer Animation Tools - 3D-Animation Environment - Special Animation Techniques - Today's Animation Systems (Hardware/Software) - Applications of Computer Animation - Introduction to Virtual Reality and its applications.

CSC 578: Advances in Multimedia Applications (3+0)

Recent advances in Multimedia technology - Hardware/Software Architectures - Tools and Environments - Virtual Reality Technology (Hardware/Software) - Multimedia Components in Virtual Reality Systems.

CSC 581: Advanced Database Systems (3+0)

Review of Basic Modeling Techniques and DBMS Concepts - Components and Functions of a DBMS - Query processing and optimization - Concurrency Control - Security - Recovery - Integrity in DBMSs - Distributed Databases - Study of Intelligent Database Systems - Study of different Object-Oriented Data Models - Introduction to XML technologies - Project: Development of a database application.

CSC 586: Hypermedia and Geographical Information Systems (3+0)

Multimedia and hypermedia Systems - Different Development Methodologies - Architectures - Query processing and Browsing Tools - Development of Hypermedia Systems on the World Wide Web (www) Databases - WWW and its Browsing Tools - Data Modeling Techniques and Development of Data Warehouse in an Architected Environment - Conceptual Modeling and Analysis of Spatial Data - Spatial Reasoning - Query Processing - Indexing Techniques - Data Storage - Hypermaps - Spatial Knowledge - different application domains - Project: Development of a prototype system.

CSC 587: Web Databases and Information Retrieval (3+0)

Modeling - Query operations - Markup languages - XML technologies and its applications - Searching the Web - IR models and Languages - Indexing and Searching - Digital libraries - Project: Designing and developing parts of IR Systems.

CSC 588: Data Warehouse and Mining Systems (3+0)

Introduction to Decision Support Systems (DSS) - Development of DSS - Data Modeling Techniques and Development of Data Warehouse in an architected Environment - Study of different Data Warehouse Architectures and Development Techniques - User-Interface for Data Warehouses - Data Mining - Application Domains for Data Warehouse and Mining - Project: Development of a Prototypical Data Warehouse/Mining System.

CSC 595: Seminar and Discussions (2+0)

The student is supposed to carry out a survey research study (theoretical and technical) on topics agreed upon with the course instructor – The student will present his findings in a written report and in a seminar.

CSC 600: Thesis

The thesis research topic is chosen by the student and approved by the Department Council.

CEN 545: Digital Image Processing (3+0)

Physical descriptions of continuous images - Sampling and quantization of images - Matrix representation of image forming - Filtering - Restoration and enhancement - Feature extraction and scene analysis.