

Academic Justification

The Wilkes Honors College (WHC) and the College of Engineering and Computer Science (COECS) propose a new combined program, where students will complete the BA or BS degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences in the WHC and then continue with an MS degree in Computer Science in the COECS. The program requires at least 120 credits in the bachelor's degree and at least 30 credits in the MS degree. The students will take the prerequisite courses while pursuing the bachelor's degree, ensuring a smooth transition into the MS in Computer Science program.

The combined program preserves and enhances the quality of both degrees. Students in any concentration in the WHC can apply to this program, but they will have to take prerequisite courses which will improve their background in computer science, see Table 1. This combined program is open to talented students who have a cumulative FAU GPA of 3.25 or better. Students can apply to the MS program at the end of their junior year (e.g. after completing at least 90 credits). Bachelor students who take graduate courses (5000 – level or higher) in the department of Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (CEECS) may count up to 9 credits of approved graduate coursework (5000 level or higher) toward both their bachelor's and master's degrees as long as the combined program totals a minimum of 150 credits.

Table 1. Prerequisite courses to be completed during the bachelor's degree

MS in Computer Science		
Comp Science prereqs	College taken in	Prereqs
COP 2220	CEECS online	
MAD 2104	HC or CoS	
COP 3014	CEECS online	COP 2220
CDA 3201C	CEECS online	COP 2220
CDA 3331C or CDA 4102	CEECS CEECS	COP 2220, CDA 3201C COP 2220, CDA 3201C
COP 3530	CEECS online	MAD 2104, COP 2220, COP 3014
COP 4610	CEECS online	CDA 3331C and COP 3530
COT 4400	CEECS online	COP 3530
STA 4821	CEECS online	MAC 2312
MAC 2312	HC	MAC 2311

CATALOG SPECIFICATIONS

B.A or B.S. in Liberal Arts and Sciences to M.S. in Computer Science Degree Program

The Wilkes Honors College (WHC) and the College of Engineering and Computer Science (COECS) offer a combined Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences to Master of Science in Computer Science degree program. The Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences will be completed in the WHC at FAU and the students will receive the bachelor's degree from the WHC. Students will do the Master of Science in Computer Science in the Department of Computer and Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at FAU and will receive the master's degree from the COECS.

Students may count up to 9 credits of approved graduate coursework (5000 level or higher) toward both their bachelor's and master's degrees as long as the combined program totals a minimum of 150 credits and:

1. The student has met the minimum 120 credits for the bachelor's degree; and
2. The student has taken a minimum of 30 credits in 5000 level or higher courses for the master's program.

Students must complete the prerequisite coursework for the master's degree while pursuing the bachelor's degree at the WHC. This combined program provides an attractive way for students to continue their graduate work. Students complete the undergraduate program first. The combined program can be completed in approximately five years.

Admission Requirements

The GRE requirement is waived for this combined program. To be eligible for the combined program, the bachelor's students in the WHC should:

1. Have a cumulative FAU GPA of 3.25 or better at the end of their junior year. Note that the cumulative FAU GPA of at least 3.25 must be maintained until the completion of the bachelor's degree in the WHC.
2. Formally apply to the combined program, completing the admissions process at least one semester prior to the beginning of the M.S. portion of their program.

Students in the combined program must maintain continuous enrollment to remain in good standing. Students must also meet all the degree requirements of the graduate program they have chosen, including prerequisite courses.

Degree Requirements

To be eligible for the combined B.A or B.S. in Liberal Arts and Sciences to M.S. in Computer Science Degree Program, students must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Completion of the requirements for the B.A or B.S. in Liberal Arts and Sciences in the WHC, and other requirements stipulated by the University and College
2. Completion of all requirements for the M.S. in Computer Science program in the CEECS department, on either the thesis or non-thesis option.