How to Apply to the Auburn CSSE Graduate Programs
(Instructions for Prospective Domestic Students)

The CSSE Graduate Programs Committee
Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering
Auburn University

Version 1.4

Auburn University Rankings
You are welcome to join the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering at the Auburn University. Auburn excels in teaching, research, and extension/outreach. For 23 consecutive years, U.S. News and World Report has ranked Auburn as one of the nation's Top 50 Public Universities. Auburn University is an “R1” institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education; an R1 designation is reserved for doctoral universities with the highest levels of research activity. Auburn is a comprehensive land, sea, and space-grant institution, among the few to hold that distinction. Niche.com ranked Auburn #1 as the 2017 Best Value College in Alabama. Auburn ranked 8th in public colleges with high student satisfaction by BestColleges.com, 2016. The online graduate programs in our department were ranked #20 in the US New Survey for 2019. Auburn University's online graduate programs are placed in the top 12 according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2019 Best Online Program rankings.

The faculty members in our department are committed to offer a unique opportunity for our graduate students to develop cutting-edge and in-depth knowledge of computer science and software engineering disciplines. We cater to graduate students with an outstanding aptitude and strong analytic skills for software design and development.

Application Procedure

Step 1. Complete the online application at https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=auburn-g
Note that all application materials are available at the Graduate School’s website (http://www.grad.auburn.edu), where you can find the information needed for your applications.

Step 2. Mail your original transcript(s) to our Graduate School (address: Graduate School, 106 Hargis Hall, Auburn, AL 36849; or graduatetranscripts@auburn.edu for Electronic Transcripts). In general, only students who have at least a 3.0/4.0 undergraduate grade point average will be considered for graduate admission.

Step 3. If you have not paid your application fee online, then make check or money order (US dollars only) payable to The Graduate School of Auburn University. Until fees are received, no application will be forwarded to the Department; therefore, no decisions will be made concerning admission and/or assistantships. Application fees are $60 for domestic applicants.
**Step 4.** Order your GRE (Auburn University's GRE School Code is “1005”) scores to Auburn University. GRE combined score (V+Q) should be greater than 300, with a verbal score of at least 150, a quantitative score of at least 150, and a written score of at least 3. We don't automatically discard applications that fail to meet these requirements. We take a "whole person" approach to evaluating applications to our graduate programs.

**Step 5.** Invite your references to submit letters of recommendations in the ApplyYourself system.

**Step 6.** Upload your resume and statement of purpose in the ApplyYourself system.

**Application Package Checklist**

Without all of the required items, your application is not complete and will not be processed by the Graduate Programs Committee.

- *Official GRE scores.* Please use a school code of 1005 and a department code of 5199
- *Official transcripts* of previous coursework (one copy is needed per university). Transcripts should be sent to the Graduate School.
- *Three letters of recommendation.* Recommendations should be submitted through the application system. Please note that we have no specific form for recommendations; those who write recommendations may use any format they choose. Applicants are also strongly encouraged (but not required) to ask their recommenders to complete the ETS Personal Potential Index (PPI) in addition to writing letters of recommendation. If you registered for the GRE on or after May 1, 2009, or have registered to take the GRE, you can send up to four evaluation reports free as part of your test fee. Please enter your name exactly as it appears in your registration. To sign up for the PPI, create an ETS PPI applicant account here: [https://www.ets.org/ppi/applicants/start/](https://www.ets.org/ppi/applicants/start/)
- *Resume.* Please upload with the online application.
- *Statement of purpose.* Please upload with the online application.

**Prerequisite Background**

We welcome students into our program who have earned degrees in other disciplines; however, to be admitted to the program, we expect students to have roughly the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree in computer science. Specifically, we require prospective students to have demonstrated knowledge in the following areas:

- C, C++, or Java
- Data structures
- Analysis of algorithms
- Discrete structures
- Operating systems
- Computer organization
- Software design

This prerequisite prescription is largely dependent on the individual applicant's background and job experience. Each application will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the above model may be considered as the worst case scenario for most applicants. Please note that these prerequisites are not available through our distance education program.
We don't automatically discard applications that fail to meet these requirements. We take a "whole person" approach to evaluating applications to our graduate program. Instead of just looking at a single test score (or grade point average), we take into account all the information that you provide us: GRE scores, transcripts, recommendations, etc. If one measure is below our minimum, we expect other items to be commensurately high enough to balance it.

Application Deadlines

Application packets must be complete by May 1 to receive priority consideration for funding for the fall semester. June 15 is the latest an application can be accepted and still provide enough time for processing at the university level. The corresponding dates for the spring semester are Oct. 1 and Nov. 15. Please note that applications are accepted and evaluated after these deadlines; however, this may delay the desired starting semester.

Assistantships and Fellowships

Our department offers financial support to outstanding graduate students, usually through teaching (GTA) and/or research assistantships (GRA). A very limited number (i.e., 4-8 per year) of fellowships may also be available. Competition for support is open to all students (MS, Ph.D., domestic and international students). All new students, both domestic and international, are automatically considered to be candidates for graduate teaching assistant (GTA) positions. Graduate research assistantships (GRAs) are offered by faculty members through their research grants. Please refer to the “Faculty Research Interests” section below for details on our faculty research.

- Teaching Assistantships: $1000 - 1,500 per month stipend + tuition waiver. Summer funding is limited.
- Research Assistantships: $1000 - 1,500 per month stipend + tuition waiver.

There is no special process to apply for these assistantships. There are no set requirements for financial support; a large number of students with excellent qualifications apply each year for a limited number of positions. GPAs, standardized test scores (e.g., GRE and TOEFL), technical background and programming skills are collectively considered. While a position may become available at any time throughout a semester, we make decisions for GTA/GRA positions for fall and spring semesters in March and November, respectively.

Ph.D. applicants with a master’s degree in computer science, software engineering, or computer engineering are given preference in assistantship consideration.

Faculty Research Interests

For details about the research interests of our faculty members, and other information pertaining to our graduate programs, please visit our website below

- Faculty Information: [http://www.eng.auburn.edu/comp/faculty](http://www.eng.auburn.edu/comp/faculty)
- Graduate Programs: [http://www.eng.auburn.edu/comp/academics/graduate](http://www.eng.auburn.edu/comp/academics/graduate)

You may also download our new CSSE graduate student orientation slides here:

[https://www.slideshare.net/xqin74/auburn-csse-graduate-student-orientation](https://www.slideshare.net/xqin74/auburn-csse-graduate-student-orientation)

From slides 11 to 20, you will locate the research expertise of our faculty members.
Deferral for Admission

Admission to the Graduate School is valid for one year. For example, if you are admitted for Fall 2018, you may enroll anytime during the 2018-2019 academic year (i.e., Fall 2018 or Spring 2019). If you wish to delay admission, please send your request of deferral for admission through an email to Dr. Qin at xqin@auburn.edu.

Expense Budgets

Information on the cost of attending Auburn University in residence can be found here:


Insurance

All graduate assistants with assignments of 10 hours/week (i.e., 0.25 FTE) or greater for the full semester in the fall and/or spring semesters, who meet the minimum monthly stipend established by the Office of the Provost, and are in good academic standing are required to have health insurance coverage. Further information on graduate student health insurance program can be found here:

http://graduate.auburn.edu/graduate-student-health-insurance-program

Application Review

After you complete your application, the Graduate Programs Committee, of which Dr. Qin (xqin@auburn.edu) is the chair, will review the materials and make an admission recommendation to the graduate school.