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

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

Version 2.0
Revised: September 12, 2019

Auburn University Rankings
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. Auburn ranked No. 1 nationally in the “happiest students” category as part of The Princeton Review’s annual “Best 385 Colleges” rankings list. 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 Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, within which CSSE is located, is ranked 29th in the nation among public universities by US News & World Report in 2019.

Our department is the largest computer science department in the State of Alabama, and ranked number one in the state and one of the top programs in the Southeastern region of United States by US News & World Report in 2018. All of our graduate degrees (with the exception of MS in Data Science and Engineering) are available both on-campus and online. Our online graduate programs were ranked #20 in the nation by US News & World Report in 2019. The 31 faculty members in our department are committed to offer a unique opportunity for our graduate students to conduct cutting-edge research and develop in-depth knowledge of the field. We cater to graduate students with an outstanding aptitude and strong analytic skills for advanced research and development in all subareas of Computer Science and Software Engineering.

Application Procedure

**Step 1.** Complete the online application at [https://app.applyyourself.com/?id=auburn-g](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](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 $70 for international applicants.

**Step 4.** Order your GRE (Auburn University’s GRE School Code is “1005”) and TOEFL 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. TOEFL is only required for those who do not have a degree from English speaking schools. Successful international applicants must score at least 550 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) paper version (pBT), 213 on the computer version (cBT), and 79 on the internet version (iBT). 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 ApplyYouself system.

**Step 6.** Upload your resume and statement of purpose in the ApplyYouself 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 TOEFL or IELTS scores** (for international students). Please use a school code of 1005 and a department code of 99
- **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 (e.g., admitted PhD students), usually through teaching and/or research assistantships (GRA). All assistantships include tuition waivers. 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 for the award of 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.

In an effort to recruit outstanding graduate students, the university and college offer fellowships to a select group of candidates who have the potential to excel in graduate studies at Auburn ([AU Presidential Graduate Research Fellowships](https://auburn.edu/grad/pgrf) and [College of Engineering Fellowships](https://engineering.auburn.edu/fellowships)). If you are admitted to our graduate program, the department will assist you in applying for these fellowships.

**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](https://csse.auburn.edu/faculty)
- [CSSE Graduate Programs](https://csse.auburn.edu/graduate)

**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:

- [Estimated Student Expense Budgets](https://auburn.edu/fin/expense)

**Financial Documents**

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International applicants who are admitted to one of our graduate programs will be asked to provide financial documents as part of the paperwork to obtain a student visa. Nevertheless, the computer science and software engineering department does not need those documents to make an admission decision. The documents can be provided after an admission decision has been made.

Insurance

It is mandatory that all international graduate students and dependents in F or J immigration status have a comprehensive medical insurance plan, which covers the graduate students in the United States while they are enrolled at Auburn University. Please check with the Office of International Programs (insurance@auburn.edu) for details. Further information on graduate student health insurance program can be found here:

- 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.