Graduate Program Manager

Website Content for CS Graduate Program

Martin Smith

NOVEMBER 2020

Overview

Dr. Liu, the Graduate Advisor for the Western Washington University Computer Science Department, gets asked a lot of repetitive questions from prospective and current graduate students alike regarding admissions, advising, and other graduate information.

The departmental website is a resource that contains relevant information to a lot of these asked questions, but its current state requires cross-navigation and re-routing across other resources to find answers.

CS Masters Program

COMPUTER SCIENCE, MS

Goals

- To graduate students with a strong, in-depth background in computer science.
- To engage students in high quality research-oriented projects.
- To prepare students for PhD programs and/or advanced industry opportunities.

Objectives

- To educate students in core concepts in computer science.
- To provide students with in depth knowledge, skills, and experiences in computer science.
- To focus on the applied aspects of computer science, especially real-world projects that use core concepts and expert knowledge of computer science.
- To provide students and faculty opportunities to engage in research in computer science.

Computer Science, MS Catalog 2020-2021

Contact Information

Computer Science Graduate Program Advisor:

Yudong Liu, Ph.D

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CF 483
(360)-650-4831

WWU Graduate School

OM 530
(360)-650-3170

Forms and Resources

1. Graduate Plan of Study
2. Graduate Research Project Form
3. Application for Degree
4. Degree Recommendation Non-Thesis Option
5. Graduate Handbook (PDF)

Student Testimonials

Testimonials from current students and recent graduates of the Computer Science Graduate Program.

Sasha

"I am grateful to WWU that it helps foreign students like myself to feel welcomed in foreign country by providing support and high level of education. Also, as a female studying in a male-dominated field I do not feel any bias, but only an encouragement, motivation and great support from a faculty who wants me to succeed. Moreover, I am grateful to WWU MS program for being able to work as a TA without needing to pay for school."

Monsur

"I am working at We Work as a software engineer. I think the Master's program at Western was challenging but doable. Tests and large projects enhanced my core CS concepts and gave me the confidence to handle the real-life hard problems."

Sam

"I most appreciated the individual attention I got. Professors were easily available, the IT/DevOps staff were always able to help, and I was able to work on a project that catered to my math background. One skill that stands out in particular from WWU was the large number of programming languages I learned; this makes it much easier to get up to speed on new projects."

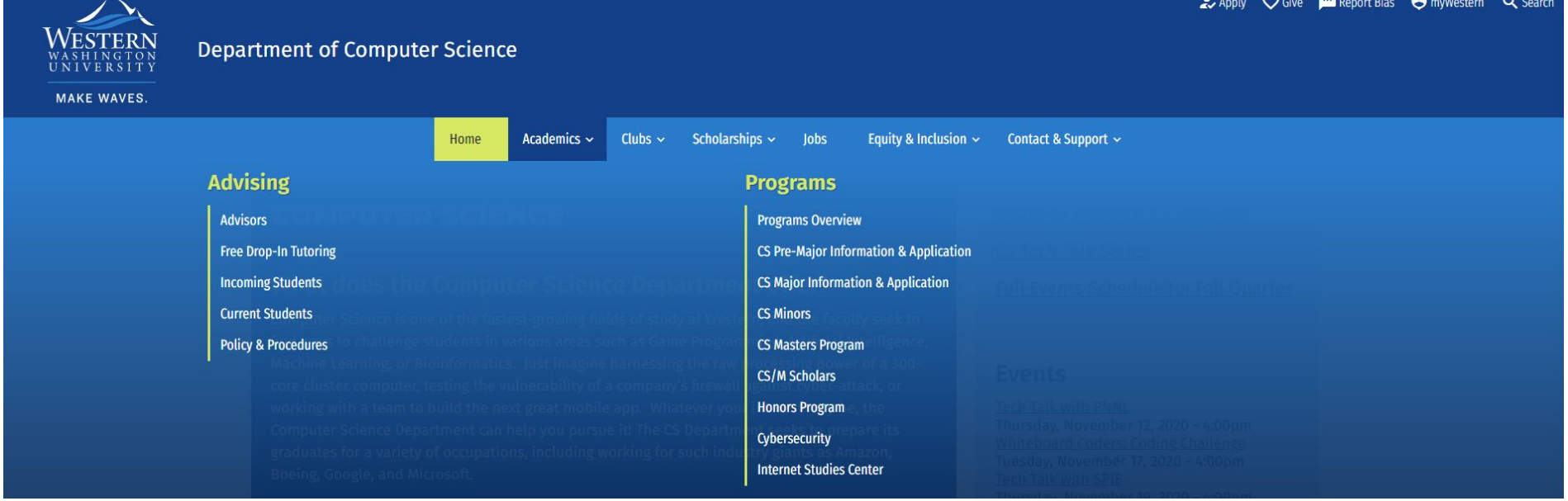
Ellyn

"I really appreciated the opportunity to conduct research I was interested in and that was relevant to the field of CS I wanted to pursue. I work in many different areas of machine learning such as capturing trends of information spread on social media platforms, developing and defending adversarial attacks of deep learning systems, and discovering causal links in simulated data. The majority of the skills and tools that I use the most in this position I learned as a graduate student at Western. The research component of the program prepared me the most for success in this job (Data Scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)."

Website Redesign Goal

For the Computer Science department to succeed in providing graduate program information to prospective students, current students, and other interested parties:

- Current information in the Masters Program and Honors Program must be expanded upon, and reference each other.
- A FAQ section must be added to address prospective student concerns
- Information for Graduate Student advising must be introduced



Current Navigation Challenges

- Under the Advising section, the Current & Incoming Students page are misleading, as they hold information only pertaining to undergraduate level students.
- Even though the CS Masters Program and the Honors Program have similar goals of getting students enrolled in computer science graduate studies, the pages are separate entities both in navigation and content.
- The CS Minors is given higher priority in Navigation than both the Masters and Honors Program.
- The CS/M Scholars Program page is misleading in its name due to the undefined “M” could potentially stand for “Masters”, and Scholars being related to “Honors” in reference.

COVID-19 Symptom Attestation

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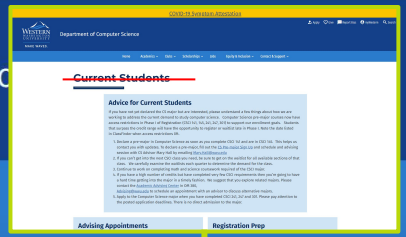
Advising

- Advisors
- Free Drop-In Tutoring
- Incoming Students
- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Policy & Procedures

Programs

- Programs Overview
- CS Pre-Major Information & Applicatior
- CS Major Information & Application
- CS/Math Major Information
- CS Masters Program
- CS Honors Program
- CS Minors
- Cybersecurity
- Internet Studies Center


Department of Computer Science

~~Current Students~~

Advice for Current Students

Advising Appointments Registration Prep

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Department of Computer Science
Advising Program

CS Masters Program

CS Masters Program
Curriculum
CS Honors Program
Admissions
Teaching Assistantship
FAQs

The Master's Program is a two year program that prepares students from a wide range of backgrounds to provide valuable skills for careers in industry, academia, and government. We foster a nourishing environment to teach, learn, and research the theory and applications of computing.

Students graduating from our program will have the ability to apply computing knowledge and mathematics to real world problems. Our students will be able to analyze problems and innovate solutions, and master the cycle of designing, implementing, and evaluating to create better computer-based systems, processes, components, and programs.

In addition we ground students with a solid understanding of professional, ethical, legal, security, and social issues, and put it in perspective within our roles as computer scientists. In short, we prepare our students to have a profound impact on technology and the future of humanity.

Areas of Interest

Artificial Intelligence
Machine Learning
Natural Language Processing
Bioinformatics
Human-Computer Interaction
Computer Vision
Computer Graphics
Computer Science Education
Big Data

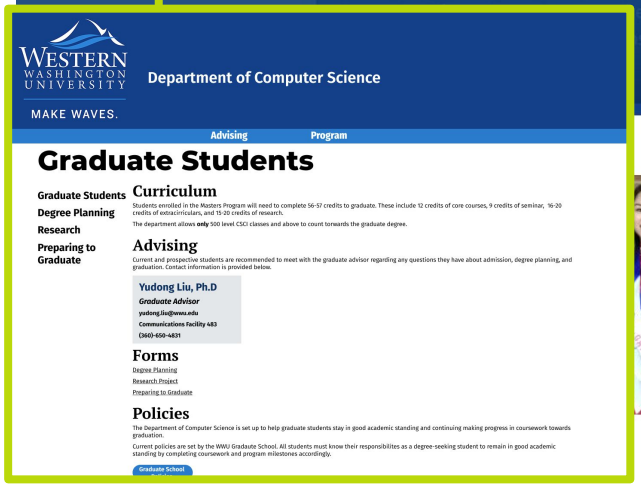
Total Number of Graduate Students: 35

Over 30% of our student cohort are women and international students

Applications are accepeted through the year in Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters

Admissions Information | Graduate School Application

Graduate students can receive financial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Department of Computer Science
Advising Program

Graduate Students

Graduate Students
Degree Planning
Research
Preparing to Graduate

Curriculum

Students enrolled in the Masters Program will need to complete 56-57 credits to graduate. These include 12 credits of core courses, 9 credits of seminar, 16-20 credits of extracirriculars, and 15-20 credits of research.

The department allows **only** 500 level CSCI classes and above to count towards the graduate degree.

Advising

Current and prospective students are recommended to meet with the graduate advisor regarding any questions they have about admission, degree planning, and graduation. Contact information is provided below.

Yudong Liu, Ph.D
Graduate Advisor
yudong.liu@wwu.edu
Communications Facility 483
(360)-650-4631

Forms

Degree Planning
Research Project
Preparing to Graduate

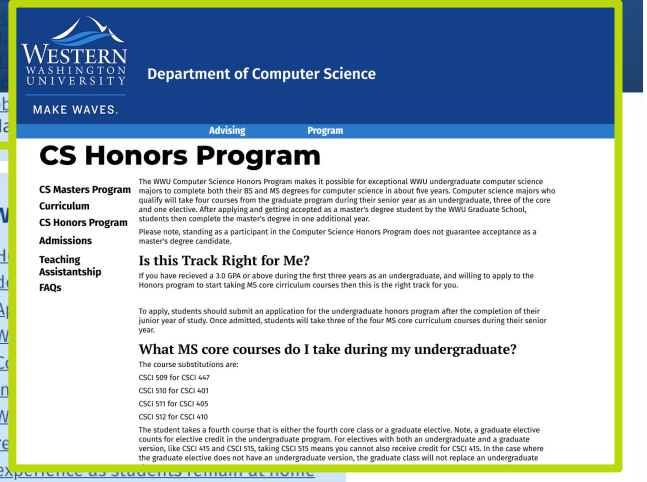
Policies

The Department of Computer Science is set up to help graduate students stay in good academic standing and continuing making progress in coursework towards graduation.

Current policies are set by the WWU Graduate School. All students must know their responsibilites as a degree-seeking student to remain in good academic standing by completing coursework and program milestones accordingly.

Graduate School

Congratulations to our Spring 2019 graduates!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Advising Program

CS Honors Program

CS Masters Program
Curriculum
CS Honors Program
Admissions
Teaching Assistantship
FAQs

The WWU Computer Science Honors Program makes it possible for exceptional WWU undergraduate computer science majors to complete both their BS and MS degrees for computer science in about five years. Computer science majors who qualify will take four courses from the graduate program during their senior year as an undergraduate, three of the core and one elective. After applying and getting accepted as a master's degree student by the WWU Graduate School, students then complete the master's degree in one additional year.

Please note, standing as a participant in the Computer Science Honors Program does not guarantee acceptance as a master's degree candidate.

Is this Track Right for Me?

If you have recieved a 3.0 GPA or above during the first three years as an undergraduate, and willing to apply to the Honors program to start taking MS core cirriculum courses then this is the right track for you.

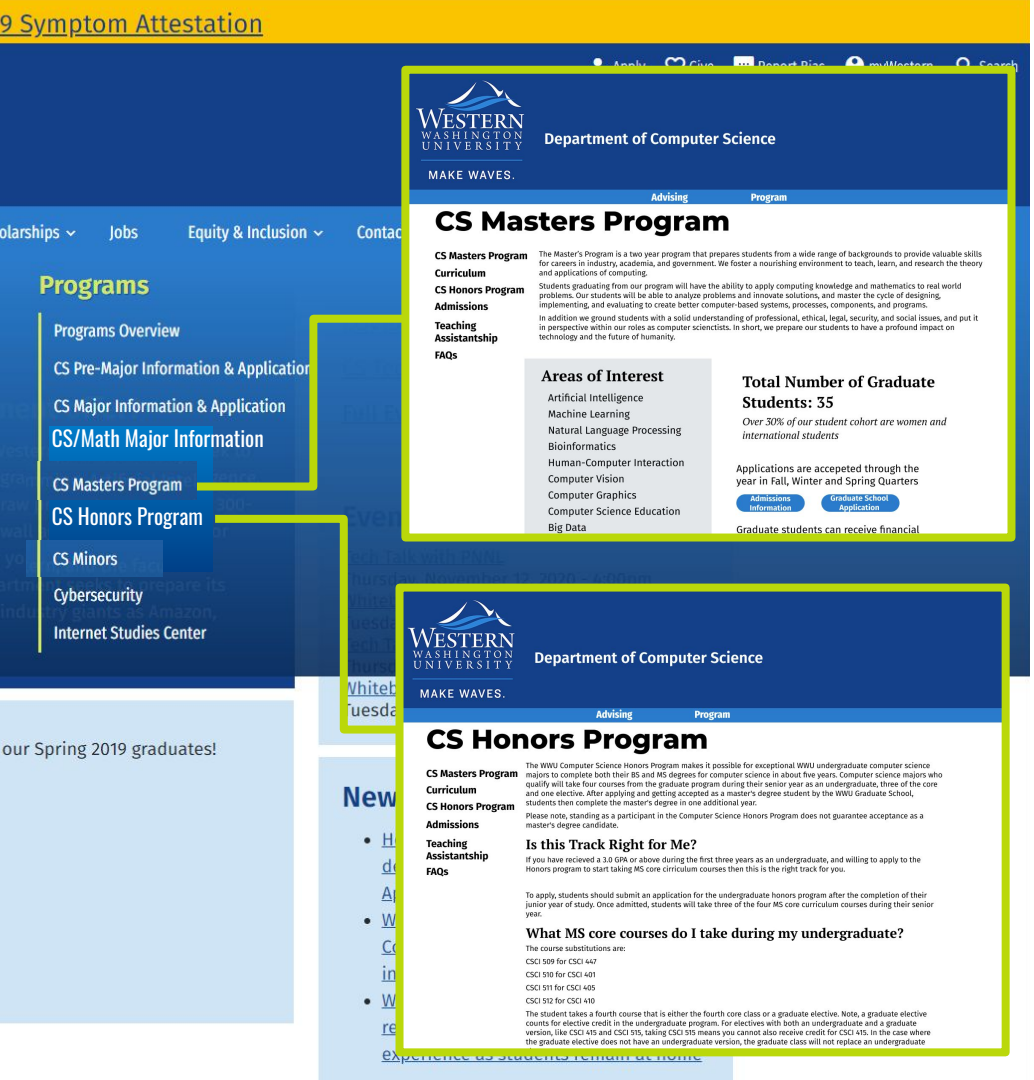
To apply, students should submit an application for the undergraduate honors program after the completion of their junior year of study. Once admitted, students will take three of the four MS core curriculum courses during their senior year.

What MS core courses do I take during my undergraduate?

The course substitutions are:

CSCI 509 for CSCI 447
CSCI 510 for CSCI 401
CSCI 511 for CSCI 405
CSCI 512 for CSCI 410

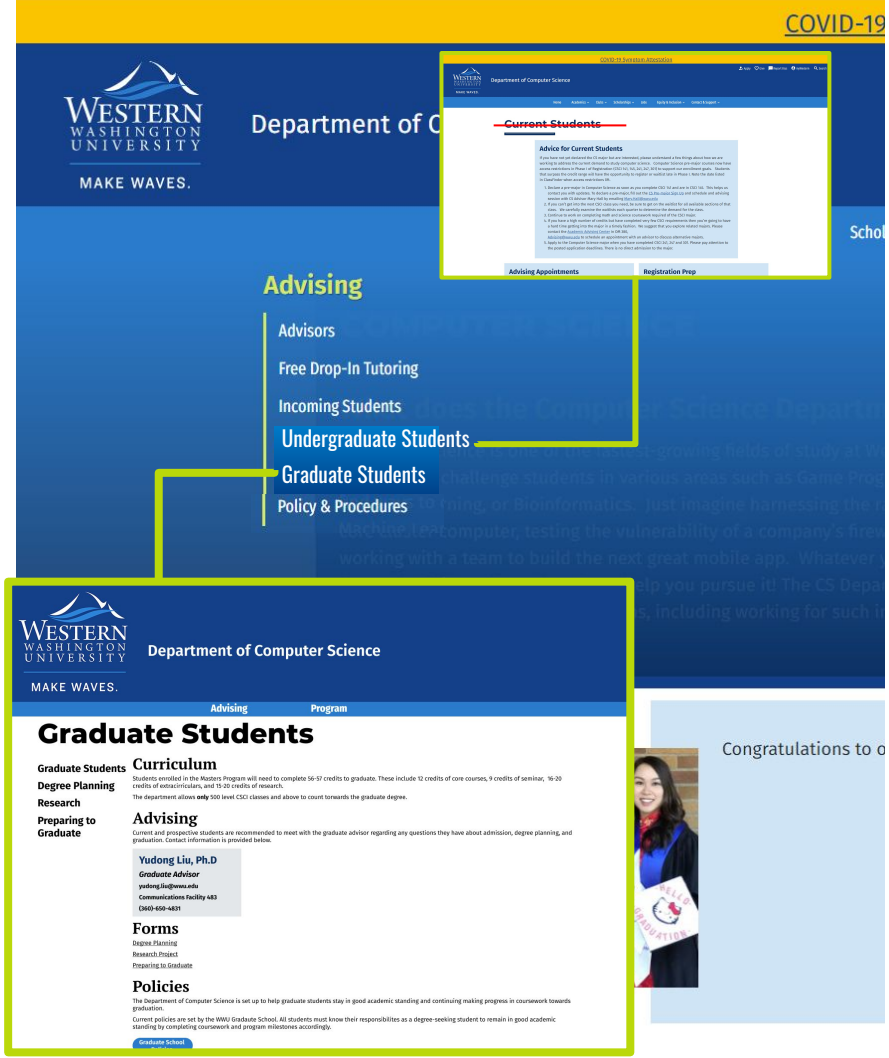
The student takes a fourth course that is either the fourth core class or a graduate elective. Note, a graduate elective counts for elective credit in the undergraduate program. For electives with both an undergraduate and a graduate version, like CSCI 415 and CSCI 515, taking CSCI 515 means you cannot also receive credit for CSCI 415. In the case where the graduate elective does not have an undergraduate version, the graduate class will not replace an undergraduate



Proposed Navigation

Programs

- CS Masters Program and Honors Program should be displayed next to each other in navigation due to both being CS Graduate programs.
- CS/M is renamed so it is explicitly stated that the “M” stands for Math.
- CS Minors are moved lower in navigation since preference of navigation selection should go to undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in a program that awards a Computer Science degree.

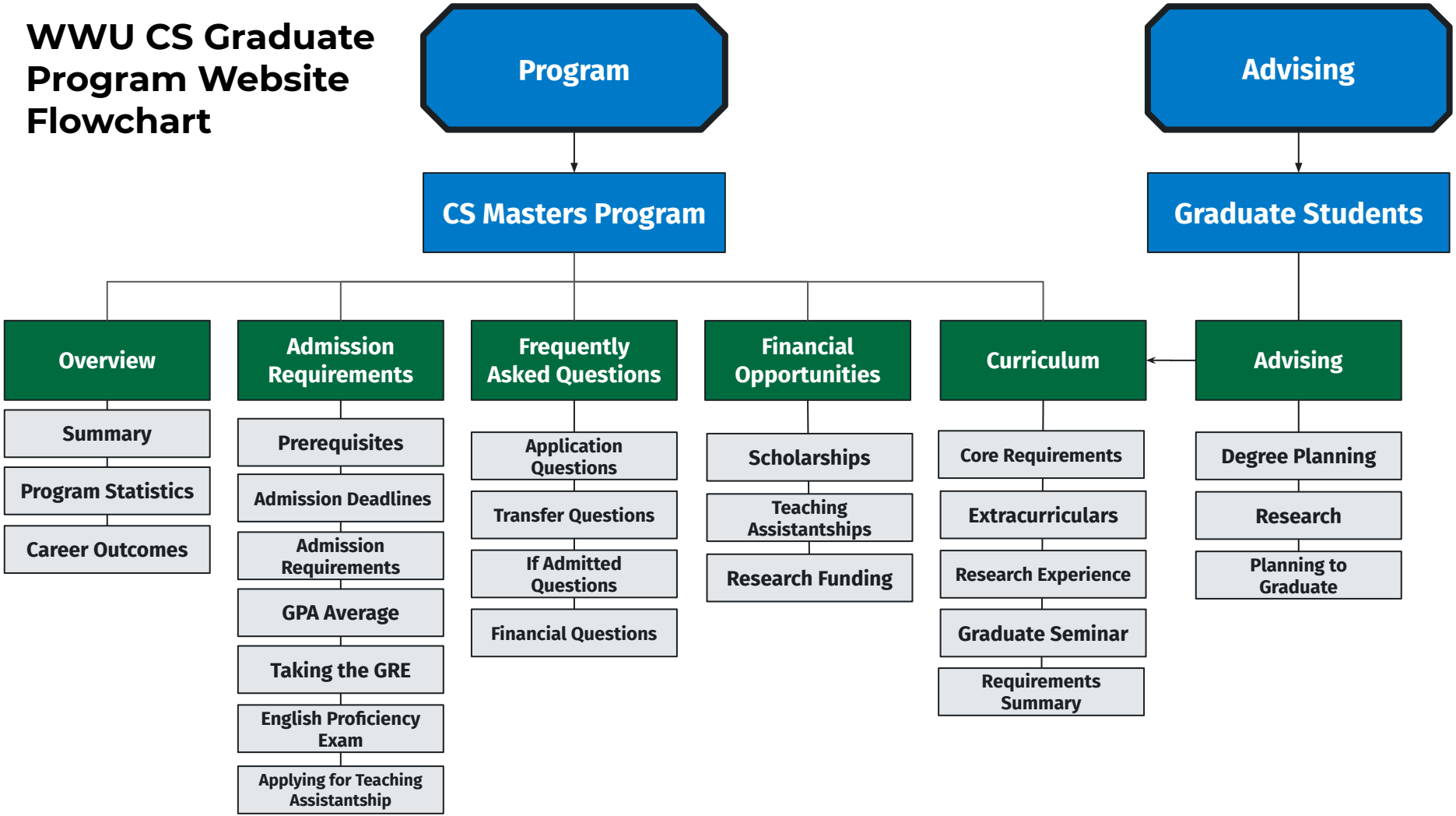


Proposed Navigation

Advising

- Advising content should be reorganized based on whether the student is an Undergraduate or Graduate to avoid confusion.
- Current Students and Incoming Students pages should be introduced within an Undergraduate Students pages.
- A section for advising explicitly for Graduate Students will be introduced with the proposed content.

WWU CS Graduate Program Website Flowchart



Website Content Prototype

https://www.figma.com/proto/mxFXoI8tPn5zwS0olqP1no/Graduate-Program-Website-Content?node-id=20%3A2&scaling=min-zoom