What financial support is available from the department (TA/RA/etc.)?

In the UNCC CS MS Program, CS MS Graduate Program Director does not make recommendations for assistantship funding. (Each UNCC department works differently).

CS MS student options are described below:

Financial aid: The CS Department does not offer financial aid based upon need. Contact the financial aid office of the university for such assistance. Also the Graduate School maintains a list fellowships at: https://graduateschool.uncc.edu/funding/graduate-school-fellowships

Teaching Assistantships (TAs): Most of our graduate assistantship funding goes to PhD students and continuing MS students. The total amount of assistantship funding for the new MS students is rather limited. All MS applicants should enter “Yes” in the application form on the question “Assistantship Interest:”

After arriving on campus, an accepted MS student can submit a TA application with the Computer Science. To be considered for a Teaching Assistantship, you must:

1. Apply via UNCC Hire-A-Niner at https://uncc-csm.symplicity.com/faculty/index.php?mode=form&id=de1e8f49dd93740d6c1e36c33c2b06de&ss=jobs&ss=jobs.
2. Fill out the CS TA application form at https://tinyurl.com/y8bkzpzf

Once you do this, faculty at CCI will contact you if your qualifications meet the specific requirements of the courses they teach.

- Do not contact faculty directly about Teaching Assistantships
- Questions about paperwork, contracts, etc. should be sent to: cci-cs-student-hire@uncc.edu

If you are selected for a TA and are a first time student employee, you will then need to complete the I-9 / Hiring Documents these steps are documented at https://hr.uncc.edu/recruitment-and-hiring/new-employee-forms.

Please note that these are very competitive and dependent on enrollment and/or funding. TAs do not cover tuition, they provide a stipend. There is a very limited number of Graduate Assistantships that from time to time are made available to MS students; however, these are exceedingly rare.

Research Assistantships (RAs): Most of our graduate Research Assistantships go to PhD students. Research assistantships (RA’s) are usually associated with faculty research projects with external funding. While most RA’s go to Ph.D. students, occasionally faculty may have a RA position for a Master’s student. Most faculty will expect the master’s student take courses with the faculty first, so that faculty can get to know the student and their capabilities. Many faculty will favor MS students:

- who took a MS course at UNCC related to the RA topic, in particular a course taught by that faculty member
- who show a keen interest in research and
- who plan to pursue the MS thesis option

Some faculty advertise their RA positions here: https://cci.uncc.edu/research/search-our-research-database.

Emails sent randomly to faculty with whom a student has taken no related courses will generally not receive a response to due to the very high volume of these emails sent to faculty.

Tuition remissions: A few tuition remissions are given by the Graduate school from departmental nominations based upon high merit, but there is a graduate school requirement that all nominations first have an assistantship (not a grader position). Once you have an teaching or research assistantship, your faculty supervisor may nominate you. The department will only nominate a student who has an assistantship within the Department of Computer Science and with a strong recommendation from a faculty member. Research assistants take precedence.

Campus employment opportunities: The University has over 22,000 students and the almost 1000-acre campus has many opportunities for on-campus employment. These are generally managed through https://hireaniner.uncc.edu/. The University Career Center can also help find local employment.

Internships: Computer Science internships are a very good approach for obtaining paid practical training and can lead to a permanent position after graduation. Internships can be done through the University Career Center, which provides company contacts (or can be done through the department although in that case you are responsible for finding the company. Related FAQ items are:

- Do ITCS 6490 Industrial Internship credit hours count towards graduation?
- What is the purpose of ITCS 6490 Industrial Internship?
- How do I register for ITCS 6490 Industrial Internship?