The purpose of the USC Viterbi School of Engineering Master of Science in Computer Science program is to prepare students for high level professional employment in any sector of computer science related to the design, programming, and application of computing systems; or to pursue advanced graduate studies focusing on related problems in the field. Graduates might pursue computer science-related employment or advanced graduate study in many diverse real-world domains.

- Upon completion of the USC Master of Science in Computer Science, students will be able to demonstrate deep understanding of both fundamentals and important current issues in computer science.
- Upon completion of the USC Master of Science in Computer Science, students will be able to apply critical principles and skills pertinent to MSCS duties in their employment and professional practice.
- Upon completion of the USC Master of Science in Computer Science, students will be able to work in diverse global contexts and apply universally respectful and globally centric practices pertinent to MSCS duties in international and domestic contexts.
- USC students enrolled in the Master of Science in Computer Science will demonstrate understanding of contemporary research questions, results, and areas of application relating to the fundamentals of computing in a computer science context.