The AMSC Program is constructed so that the student’s course of study is flexible and of high quality. The aim is to design a program for the student which will prepare him/her to pursue research (or work) in an area of scientific computing using ideas from the chosen area of application. Thus, care is taken to develop a curriculum for each student which will insure a level of competence in:

- the student’s field of application
- areas of scientific computing relevant to the student’s field of application
- related topics of theoretical mathematics
- modern computing techniques and approaches of numerical mathematics used in the area of specialization

The Study Advisory Committee, made up solely of AMSC faculty, working together with the student, is responsible for formulating a course of study leading toward the degree sought. This committee consists of at least two faculty members for M.S. students and of three or more for Ph.D. students. At least one member of the committee represents the application area, and one member represents the mathematics area of specialization. This can be done as soon as the student enters the Program and generally within the first year.

The proposed Study Advisory Plan includes the following information:

- Summary of the courses already taken and courses recommended for the degree sought, listed semester-by-semester.
- The courses with mathematical content must be taught by a faculty member from the Department of Mathematics.
- Details of the proposed Scientific Computing core courses to be taken to satisfy examination and degree requirements.

The Study Advisory Committee members sign a copy which is then submitted to the Graduate Committee for approval. The plan must be approved by the Graduate Committee to become effective. Copies of the approved plan are sent to the student and a copy is kept in the student’s file. This “Plan” can at times change as the student progresses in his or her studies.