CS 591 PHD Seminar

Beginning the journey toward earning a PhD
CS Graduate Office

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Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Pick a color and change your zoom name to be “<color> <your name>”

I’ll put you in breakout rooms so you can meet some of your new colleagues. Things you can chat about:

- Name
- School attended for undergraduate degree
- Research interest
- Reason for pursuing a PhD
- One fun fact about yourself
About You (Fall 2020)

This year:

1255 applications for the PhD program
241 offers of admission for PhD program
117 offers accepted (16 have deferred to Spring 2021)

Last year:

1103 applications for the PhD program
228 offers of admission for PhD program
111 offers accepted last year
International Makeup (PhD only)

Bangladesh (3), Canada (1), China (35), India (13), Israel (1), Iran (1), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (4), Romania (1), Serbia (1), Taiwan (1), Thailand (1), USA (51), Vietnam (1)

includes the 16 deferrals
You are investing BIG in your career
A PhD is worth the investment

- Achievement (only about 2% of U.S. population has a PhD)
- Knowledge and discovery
- New career pathways
- Entrepreneurship
Some of the Challenges

• Transition from consuming to *producing* knowledge
• Develop professional communication skills
• Manage time and stress
• Deal with rejections
• Develop people skills
The path to a PhD is like a marathon.
About the Seminar
Learning and Other Goals

How to be a successful graduate student and researcher
Develop professional skills needed for research
Campus resources for research
Program requirements and strategies
Build student and faculty community

Get exposure to all of the areas in the department
Sample of Topics
PhD Timeline

- **FY1**
  - Satisfy course requirements

- **SY1**
  - Find advisor + topic

- **FY2**
  - Qual exam (1st)
  - Write paper

- **SY2**
  - Qual exam (2nd)
  - Write paper

- **FY3**
  - Internship
  - Write paper

- **SY3**
  - Prelim exam
  - Write paper

- **FY4**
  - Write paper
  - Write paper

- **SY4**
  - Write paper

- **FY5**
  - Internship

- **SY5**
  - Write dissertation

- **FY6**
  - Seek jobs

- **SY6**
  - Defend
Plan coursework
(70 courses per semester)
Careers

University research
Industry research

University teaching
Entrepreneurship
By the end of the semester

• Familiarize your self with required coursework for the PhD program
• Pick a primary area (plus potential secondary areas)
• Make new friends!
Organization

• Meet on Mondays, 11:00-11:50 AM
• Schedule posted on the web site (https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs591phd/fa2020/)
• Lecture and discussion format

• Must receive a Satisfactory (“S”) grade
  • receive credit for all assignments
  • have at most two unexcused absences
  • satisfy the attention policy
Assignment Policy

The seminar has several assignments. You must receive credit for all assignments to pass (receive “S” grade) the seminar.
Attendance Policy

• We will be monitoring your attendance on zoom

• Can have at most **two** unexcused absences.
  • Excused absences include personal illness and university travel
  • notify the course staff before the absence (for travel) or as soon as possible (for illnesses)
Online Resources

CS Grad Program: http://cs.illinois.edu/current-students/graduate-students

My.CS portal: http://my.cs.illinois.edu

Grad College Website: http://www.grad.illinois.edu

Grad Handbook: http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook
By Next Time

1. Introduce yourself on slack

2. Skim the Graduate College Handbook
   http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook

3. Come to class with questions