

CS 591 PHD Seminar

Beginning the journey toward earning a PhD

CS Graduate Office



Viveka Kudaligama
Assistant DGS



Kara McGregor
Senior Grad Advisor



Maggie M. Chappell
Grad Advisor



Nancy Amato
Head of CS



Robin Kravets
Dir. Grad Studies



Darko Marinov
Associate DGS

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.



Image: <https://finishyourthesis.com/worth-getting-your-phd-degree/>

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

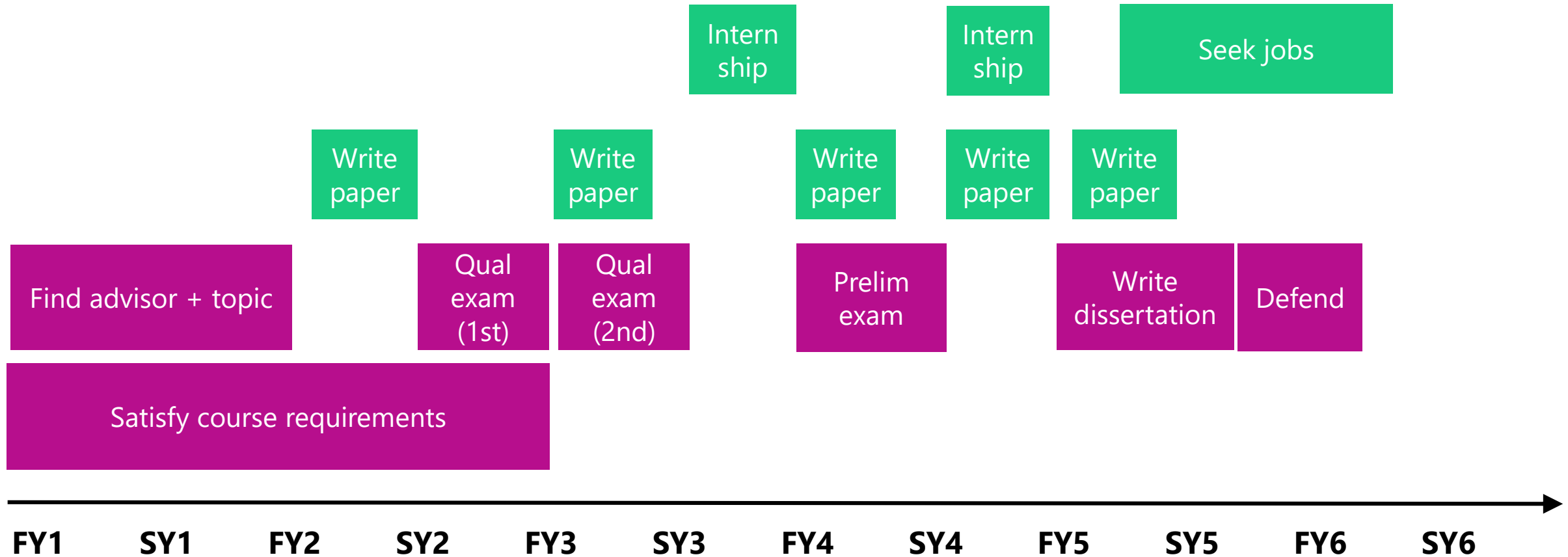
Build student and faculty community

Get exposure to all of the areas in the department

Sample of Topics

PhD Timeline

Desired
Required



CS 465	User Interface Design
CS 468	Tech and Advertising Campaigns
CS 475	Formal Models of Computation
CS 476	Program Verification
CS 481	Stochastic Processes & Applic
CS 483	Applied Parallel Programming
CS 484	Parallel Programming
CS 491	Seminar
CS 493	Senior Project II, ACP
CS 494	Senior Project II
CS 497	CS Team Project
CS 498	Special Topics
CS 499	Senior Thesis
CS 510	Advanced Information Retrieval
CS 519	Scientific Visualization
CS 523	Advanced Operating Systems
CS 524	Concurrent Progrmg Languages
CS 527	Topics in Software Engineering
CS 536	Fault-Tolerant Dig Syst Design
CS 541	Computer Systems Analysis
CS 544	Optimiz in Computer Vision
CS 548	Models of Cognitive Processes
CS 549	Seminar in Cognitive Science
CS 554	Parallel Numerical Algorithms
CS 563	Advanced Computer Security
CS 571	Combinatorial Mathematics

Plan coursework
(70 courses per semester)

University research

Industry research

Careers

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