CS 591 PHD Seminar

Beginning the journey toward earning a PhD
CS Graduate Office

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Virtual Queue for Walk-in Advising

- Online graduate advising hours
- Monday-Wednesday: 10:00-11:30 AM & 1:00-4:00 PM CST
- Thursday: 10:00-11:30 AM & 2:00-4:00 PM CST
- Friday 10:00 - 11:30 AM CST

- [https://queue.illinois.edu/q/cs-grad-advising/](https://queue.illinois.edu/q/cs-grad-advising/)
Meet with the DGS

Hybrid Office Hours
Tuesdays 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
SC 1324A/Zoom

Lunch w/ DGS
Thursdays 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Location: Ground Floor Patio (weather permitting) or SC 1218
The path to a PhD is like a marathon.
Some of the Challenges

• Transition from consuming to producing knowledge
• Develop professional communication skills
• Manage time and stress
• Deal with rejections
• Develop people skills
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
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
PhD Timeline

- Satisfy course requirements
- Find advisor + topic
- Qual exam (1st)
- Qual exam (2nd)
- Internship
- Prelim exam
- Write dissertation
- Defend
- Write paper
- Seek jobs

FY1 SY1 FY2 SY2 FY3 SY3 FY4 SY4 FY5 SY5 FY6 SY6
Plan coursework (many courses per semester)
Find an Advisor

**STANDOUT** in a course of interest

**ATTEND** seminars and research group meetings

**PERFORM** independent study

**SCHEDULE** meetings with potential advisors
Find a Thesis Topic

• Discuss ideas with your advisor and peers
• Learn about peer research projects
• Attend seminars
• Perform independent study
• Extend course projects
• Read papers
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!
Student Employment (Non-Fellowship)

• If you’re a new employee at the university
• You need to update work authorization (I-9 employment form or a W-8BEN form)
• You have paycheck or tuition waiver questions
• You have any employment related questions

• Please contact Kim Bogle at kbogle@illinois.edu
First Year Travel/Equipment Budget

Department Grant

- $2500
  - Meant for research travel or research equipment
  - Meant to replace any support from RA funding sources

- Using it
  - Must go through your assigned admin (coming soon)
  - Subject to all university restrictions (e.g., no purchases from Amazon)
  - Any equipment purchase is the property of the department
  - Not for use for personal property or travel
  - Must be used in your first year
Office Space

• All first year PhD students have desks in:
  • 0218 or 0220 or 0222

• If your advisor has a lab, you can request access to that lab
  • E-Lock Access: https://answers.uillinois.edu/illinois.engineering/page.php?id=81276

• The department is performing renovations and plans to move you to the new spaces as they become available
Expectations of Conduct

We are committed to the creation of an anti-racist, inclusive community that welcomes diversity along a number of dimensions, including, but not limited to, race, ethnicity and national origins, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability status, class, and religion.

We support a safe and encouraging learning and work environment that allows all students, staff and faculty equitable opportunities and respect.

We expect professional and respectful interaction and communication from all students, staff, and faculty.
Organization

• Meet on Mondays, 11:00-11:50 AM
• Schedule posted on the web site (https://courses.engr.illinois.edu/cs591phd/fa2021/)
• Lecture and discussion format

• Must receive a Satisfactory (“S”) grade
  • receive credit for all assignments
  • have at most two unexcused absences
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
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 taking attendance in class (and monitoring attendance on zoom for approved students only)

• 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