

CS 591 PHD Seminar

Beginning the journey toward earning a PhD

CS Graduate Office



Viveka Kudaligama
Senior Assistant DGS



Kara McGregor
Grad Program Coordinator



Jennifer Comstock
Grad Advisor - PhD



Nancy Amato
Head of CS



Mahesh Viswanathan
Assoc Head of CS



Robin Kravets
Dir. Grad Studies



Darko Marinov
Associate DGS

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/>



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



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

Learning and Other Goals

How to be a successful graduate student and researcher

Develop professional skills needed for research

Campus resources for research

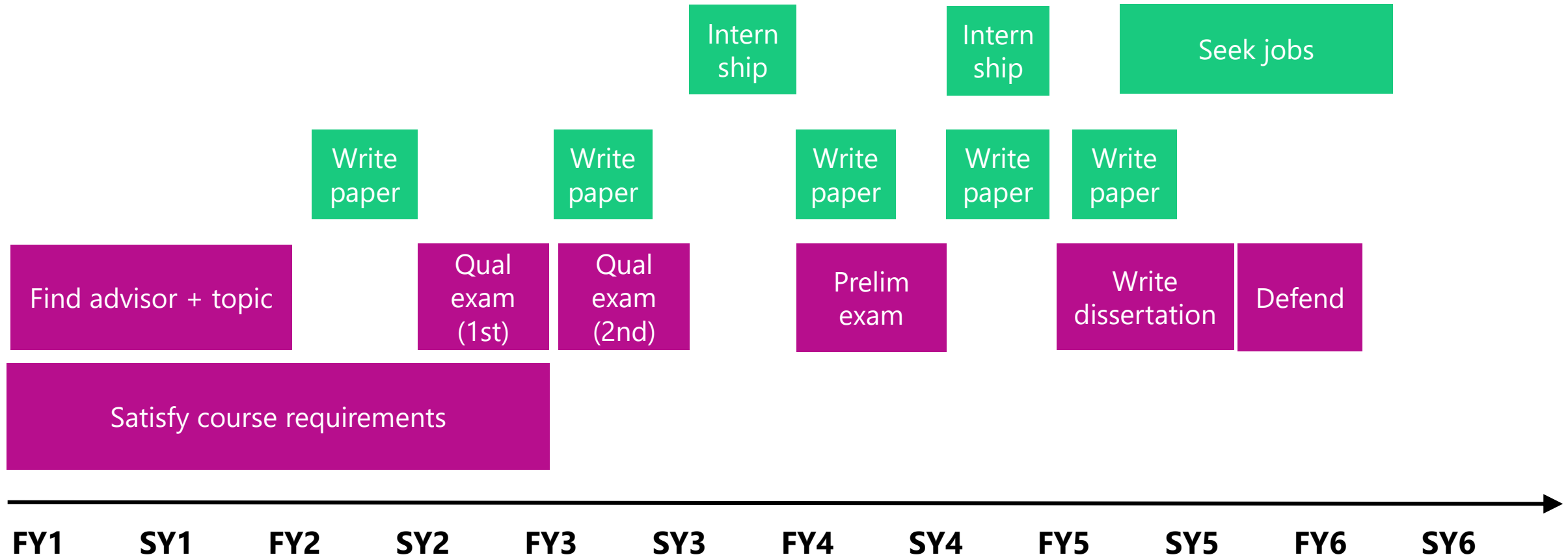
Program requirements and strategies

Build student and faculty community

Get exposure to all of the areas in the department

PhD Timeline

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
(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

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!

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>