COMPUTER SCIENCE PHD

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/).

PhD

Total Units Required: 10

Course	Title
Course Requirements	
10 graded units of graduate coursework	
COMP_SCI 401-0 (Introduction to Graduate Studies) is required and should be taken in the fall quarter of the first year	
Coursework includes COMP_SCI 499-0, but not COMP_SCI 590-0 (Research)	
Track-specific course requirements are given in the CS PhD Manual	
The normal full-time course load is three units and the maximum is four units per academic quarter. All students receiving financial aid (fellowships, assistantships, grants, etc.) must register as full-time students.	

Other PhD Degree Requirements

- **Adviser:** The CS PhD program uses an apprenticeship model. A PhD student is required to find an advisor by the end of their third quarter (typically spring quarter,) ideally earlier. The adviser must have a primary or partial academic appointment in the Computer Science Department, though courtesy faculty may be co-advisers.
- **Research:**The CS PhD program focuses on training researchers. Learning how to do research is accomplished mostly by doing research. A PhD student is expected to become involved in research from the first quarter. Research continues throughout the program, becoming increasingly self-guided as it does so, and culminates in the student's thesis work.
- **Examinations:** Qualifying Exam, Thesis Proposal (Prospectus), Oral Thesis Defense, and Written Dissertation.
- **Teaching:** at least one experience as an instructor, or teaching assistant
- Details of the above and other aspects of the CS PhD program are given in the CS PhD Manual, which can be found on the departmental web site (https://www.mccormick.northwestern.edu/computer-science/) or via phd.cs.northwestern.edu (http://phd.cs.northwestern.edu)