

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: 15

Course	Title
--------	-------

Course Requirements

15 graded units of graduate coursework for the PhD

Coursework includes COMP_SCI 499-0, but not COMP_SCI 590-0 (Research)

Six (6) units should be at the 400 - level or above

Not counting COMP_SCI 545-0 and COMP_SCI 546-0 (the two credits PhD students can earn for teaching)

The normal full-time course load is three units and 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

- **Dissertation Adviser:** PhD students are required to obtain a permanent faculty advisor by the end of their third quarter (typically spring quarter). The adviser, who must have a primary academic appointment in the Computer Science department, or an active and current courtesy appointment, must formally notify the CS department and supply an approved funding plan for the student.
- **Research:** independent research leading to dissertation; research is begun by third quarter of first year or sooner, continuing through summer into second year
- **Teaching:** at least two experiences as instructor, teaching assistant, or teaching trainee
- **Examinations:** Prospectus, Oral Thesis Defense, and Written Dissertation vary by research group as described in the CS Graduate Study Manual but must follow the timelines set by The Graduate School.