

Informatics, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in informatics requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. It is offered in four subprograms: bioinformatics and computational biology, geoinformatics, health informatics, and information science.

The 72 s.h. required for the Ph.D. includes 9-12 s.h. in foundations of informatics and at least 9 s.h. in disciplinary applications of informatics. Other course requirements are outlined in the curriculum specific to each subprogram.

Students select an advisor from their subprogram's affiliated faculty members. In consultation with their advisors, students prepare a study plan, which is reviewed by their mentors and curricular advisory committees at least once a year.

Ph.D. students must pass a comprehensive examination at or near completion of their course work requirements. The exam may be written, oral, or both, depending on the structure of the student's subprogram or the decision of the student's committee.

A student who does not already hold an M.S. in informatics from the University of Iowa and who has passed the Ph.D. comprehensive examination may be granted an M.S. degree in informatics without taking the final master's degree exam in the health informatics, geoinformatics, or information science subprogram, upon recommendation of the Informatics Program. The bioinformatics and computational biology subprogram does not grant an M.S. degree when a student passes the comprehensive exam.

Upon successful completion of all requirements, including the dissertation and its oral defense, students are awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

For more information about the Doctor of Philosophy requirements, see the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Informatics website.

Admission

Applicants to the Ph.D. program should apply to the degree subprogram of their choice; the subprograms make independent admission decisions.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations of the Graduate College. They also must meet the admission requirements of the informatics subprogram they want to enter; see Admission Requirements on the program's website.