Informatics, PhD

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in informatics requires at least 72 s.h. of graduate credit. A total of 19 s.h. of core courses are required plus an additional 12 s.h. of courses approved by a student's committee. The remaining 41 s.h. may be completed with additional coursework or through reading or research hours. Students must maintain a program grade-point average of at least 3.00.

It requires completion of coursework, satisfactory performance on the qualifying exam, comprehensive exam, and the proposal, plus the production and formal defense of a dissertation describing original research results.

Students select an advisor from among the program faculty. On the rare occasion when students choose a PhD advisor who is outside the program, a co-advisor from the program faculty must be designated.

The PhD with a major in informatics requires the following coursework.

Core Courses

Students complete a total of 19 s.h. in core coursework. The student’s advisor and the rest of the student’s committee consisting of at least two other faculty select remaining courses (12 s.h. minimum) for a total of at least 31 s.h. of coursework.

Programming

This course:

- CS:5110/IGPI:5110 Introduction to Informatics 3

One of these:

- CS:3210 Programming Languages and Tools 3
- CS:3980 Topics in Computer Science I 3
- GEOG:5055/IGPI:5055 Geospatial Programming 3

Statistics

One of these:

- BIOS:4120 Introduction to Biostatistics 3
- STAT:4143/PSQF:4143 Introduction to Statistical Methods 3

Data Science

One of these:

- BAIS:6480/IGPL:6480 Knowledge Discovery 3

An additional course (consult advisor)

Databases

- CS:4400 Database Systems 3

Human Factors

Course #  Title  Hours

One of these:

- CS:4500 Research Methods in Human-Computer Interaction 3
- CS:4510 Human-Computer Interaction for Computer Science 3
- GEOG:5540/IGPL:5540 Geographic Visualization 3

Ethics

Course #  Title  Hours

This course:

- CS:5980 Topics in Computer Science III 1

Elective Core Coursework

Course #  Title  Hours

Coursework selected in consultation with advisor and committee 12

Electives

The remaining 41 s.h. may be completed with additional coursework or through reading or research hours.

Comprehensive Examination

PhD students must pass a comprehensive examination at or near completion of their coursework requirements. Students prepare a 20–30 page survey/discussion (along the lines of the introduction and literature review from an eventual thesis) for distribution to their faculty committee, followed at least two weeks later by a 20–40 minute oral presentation, and a question/answer session.

Students may request that the MS be granted at the time of the comprehensive exam. The MS without thesis is awarded upon successful completion of the comprehensive exam but may, at the examination committee's discretion, be awarded even if students do not pass the exam. Students also may choose to complete the thesis requirements and be awarded an MS with thesis.

Dissertation

Students complete dissertation coursework in consultation with their advisor.

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.