Computer Science, PhD

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

Computer Science, PhD

Course	Title	Hours
Academic Career		
Any Semester		
72 s.h. must be graduate level coursework; up to 33 s.h. of graduate transfer credits allowed upon approval. More information is included in the General Catalog and on department website. [a]		
Graduate College program GPA of at least 3.00 is required. [b]		
	Hours	**0**
First Year		
Fall		
CS:5340 or CS:4330	Limits of Computation or Theory of Computation	3
CS:5350	Design and Analysis of Algorithms	3
CS:6000	Research Seminar: Colloquium Series [c]	1
Breadth requirement course [d]		3
	Hours	**10**
Spring		
CS:5980	Topics in Computer Science III [e]	1
Breadth requirement course [d]		3
Breadth requirement course [d]		3
Practice requirement course [f]		3
	Hours	**10**
Second Year		
Any Semester		
Exam: Doctoral Qualifying Exam [g]		
	Hours	**0**
Fall		
CS:6000	Research Seminar: Colloquium Series [c]	1
Cognate area course [h]		3
Cognate area course [h]		3
Cognate area course [h]		3
	Hours	**10**
Spring		
CS:6000	Research Seminar: Colloquium Series [c]	1
Elective course [i]		3
Elective course [i]		3
Elective course [i]		3
	Hours	**10**
Third Year		
Any Semester		
Exam: Doctoral Comprehensive Exam [j]		
	Hours	**0**
Fall		
CS:6000	Research Seminar: Colloquium Series [c]	1
Elective course [i]		3
Elective course [i]		3
Elective course [i]		3
	Hours	**10**
Spring		
Elective course [i]		3
Elective course [i]		3
Elective course [i]		3
Elective course [i]		1
	Hours	**10**
Fourth Year		
Fall		
Dissertation Proposal Defense [k]		
CS:7990	Research for Dissertation	7
	Hours	**7**
Spring		
CS:7990	Research for Dissertation	6
Exam: Doctoral Final Exam [l]		
	Hours	**6**
	Total Hours	**73**

a Students must complete specific requirements in the University of Iowa Graduate College after program admission. Refer to the Graduate College website and the Manual of Rules and Regulations for more information.

b Graduate College program GPA is comprised of all courses that are approved degree requirements. If a student takes more than the minimum required number of semester hours to complete the degree, but all courses taken are eligible to count toward the degree, those courses will be included in the Graduate College program GPA.

c Students must enroll four times for 1 s.h. each semester and attend at least 80% of scheduled talks for a satisfactory grade.

d Students must complete at least three courses (9 s.h.), with at least one course from each of the following areas: systems and software, networks and distributed systems, programming languages and compilers; see General Catalog and department website for list of approved courses.

e Students must complete this course during first two years; typically offered in spring semesters. Note: this course does not count toward degree requirements.

f Students must complete at least one course (3 s.h.) with significant practical or implementation-oriented content; see General Catalog and department website for list of approved courses.

g Taken before the end of second year; see General Catalog and department website for specifics.

h In consultation with their advisor, students are required to select three courses, totaling 9 s.h. or more, that constitutes coherent coverage of an external cognate area; the courses need not be offered by the same department. Choices include, but are not limited to, mathematics, statistics, genetics, biology, and engineering disciplines.

i See General Catalog and department website for specifics about elective coursework requirements; may be a combination of thesis hours, directed readings, or CS graduate or non-CS graduate coursework. Work with faculty advisor to determine appropriate graduate coursework and sequence.
j Taken before the end of third year; see General Catalog and department website for specifics.
k Usually takes place six months prior to doctoral final exam.
l Oral dissertation defense.