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, Ph.D.

Course | Title | Hours | Academic Career
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Any Semester | Academic Career | 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. | 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.

First Year

Any Semester | Qualifying Exam | 0 | Hours |
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Fall

CS:5350 | Design and Analysis of Algorithms | 3 | Hours |
CS:4330 | Theory of Computation or Limits of Computation | 3 | | Breadth Requirement Course | 3 | | CS:6000 | Research Seminar: Colloquium Series | 1 | | Hours | 10 |

Spring

Breadth Requirement Course | 3 | | Breadth Requirement Course | 3 | | Practice Requirement Course | 3 | | CS:7270 | Computing Research Ethics | 1 | | Hours | 10 |

Second Year

Fall

Cognate Area Course | 3 | | Cognate Area Course | 3 | | Cognate Area Course | 3 | | CS:6000 | Research Seminar: Colloquium Series | 1 | | Hours | 10 |

Spring

Elective | 3 | | Elective | 3 | | Elective | 3 | | CS:6000 | Research Seminar: Colloquium Series | 1 | | Hours | 10 |

Third Year

Any Semester

Comprehensive Exam | 0 | | Hours | 0 |

Fall

Elective | 3 | | Elective | 3 | | Elective | 3 | | CS:6000 | Research Seminar: Colloquium Series | 1 | | Hours | 10 |

Spring

Dissertation Proposal Defense | 7 | | CS:7990 | Research for Dissertation | 6 | | Final Oral Exam | 1 | | Hours | 6 |

Total Hours | 73 |

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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 Taken in mid-September or mid-February of first year; see General Catalog and department website for specifics.
c 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.
d Students must enroll four times for 1 s.h. each semester and attend at least 80% of scheduled talks for a satisfactory grade.
e 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.
f Students must complete this course during first two years; typically offered in spring semesters. Note: this course does not count toward degree requirements.
g 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.
h 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.
i Taken before the end of third year; see General Catalog and department website for specifics.
j Usually takes place six months prior to Final Oral Exam.
k Dissertation defense.