



The Graduate Program

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Agenda

- Objective
 - ♦ Get you started on registration, course selection, finding a research focus
- Topics
 - ♦ MS and PhD programs
 - ♦ Graduate program administration
 - ♦ Course selection
 - ♦ Reference materials and advice

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MS and PhD programs

- Entering students are enrolled in either the MS or the PhD program
 - ♦ little practical significance to this initial classification
 - ♦ both degrees possible from either starting point
- To proceed to a PhD requires formal *admission to the PhD program*
 - ♦ by vote of the faculty

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Curriculum Goals

- Focus on research experiences
 - ♦ Both for MS and PhD
- Flexibility
 - ♦ Enable specialization while obtaining necessary breadth
- Accommodate diverse backgrounds

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Overview of Graduate Programs

- Course requirements
- Background requirements
- Admission to PhD program

*Department rules are not absolute!
You may petition for exemptions.*

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Course Requirements

M.S. Degree

- Research Topic Courses (6 hrs recommended)
- Background Courses (0 – 6 hrs)

- Breadth Courses (9 hrs)
 - Electives (6 – 21 hrs)
 - ≥ 9 hrs CS courses (excluding research topics)
 - up to 12 hrs outside dept
 - up to 6 hrs transferred from previous grad work
- Total: 30 credit hours

Ph.D. Degree

- Breadth Courses (up to 18 hrs)
 - can use courses taken elsewhere
- Primary Concentration (9-12 hrs)
no fixed hour requirement

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COMP 991: Research Topics

- Independent study with a faculty member
- For PhD intending
 - ♦ To enable you to show research potential
 - ♦ To get a start on a research area with or without a research assistantship
- For MS students
 - ♦ To enable you to explore areas of interest
 - ♦ To get research experience

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COMP 991 and Research Assistantships

- Talk to faculty about available positions and COMP 991 topics
- Research fair
 - ♦ Next Monday
 - ♦ Faculty present available RA positions and pitch research topics/areas for COMP 991

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Background Requirements

- Background requirements worksheet
 - ♦ determine missing background
 - two missing courses is typical
 - ♦ make plan with your adviser
- Ways to make up missing background
 - ♦ take the course
 - ♦ complete a more advanced course that subsumes the content
 - ♦ arrange an independent study
 - variable credit graduate module course

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Breadth Requirement*

Category	M.S.	Ph.D.
Formal	} one from each	} at least one from each
Systems		
Applications		
External to CS		
	3 Total	6 Total

You may use grad courses taken elsewhere.

* There is small print! Read the rules.

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Expectation for admission to PhD Program

- During the first two years, students should
 - ♦ Get started on research
 - ♦ Find a research adviser
 - ♦ Demonstrate ability to conduct independent research (e.g. surveying literature, analytical & formal thinking, creativity, integration of concepts, etc)
 - ♦ Meet the minimum required writing and oral presentation skills

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Admission to PhD program

- By vote of faculty based on consideration of
 - ♦ Research potential and accomplishments in research topic course(s)
 - ♦ Grades
 - overall average closer to "H" rather than "P" expected but not required
 - ♦ Performance on assistantships
 - ♦ Research report and public presentation
 - Preliminary research presentation (PRP) in department
 - OR
 - Published paper with external review and public presentation
 - May be attempted twice (3rd and 4th semester)
 - Forfeit does not count as a failure

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Graduate Program Administration

- Student Services Manager
 - ♦ Jodie Turnbull
 - your friend and interface to the graduate school
- Your adviser
 - ♦ Academic adviser initially
 - ♦ Research-area advisor or PhD Research adviser later
- Graduate Studies Committee
 - ♦ Jan Prins – Director of Graduate Studies
 - ♦ 5 faculty members
- Department Registrar
 - ♦ Dorothy Thorpe-Turner

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Course Selection

- Keep in mind
 - ♦ Research focus
 - ♦ Independent study for research experience & PhD admission
 - ♦ Background requirement
 - ♦ Breadth requirement
- Get advice
 - ♦ Academic advisor
 - ♦ Fellow students: incoming and returning students
 - ♦ Today 6-8PM: FB120

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Course selection deadlines!

- Initial registration
 - ♦ By Monday Aug 22 5PM
 - If you miss this deadline, there is a late fee
- Adding courses
 - ♦ Before Monday Aug 29 5PM
 - ♦ Add classes no later than this date!
- Dropping courses
 - ♦ Before Tuesday Sep 6 **with tuition adjustment**
 - ♦ Tuesday Nov 21 without tuition adjustment

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Constraints

- Full-time registration
 - ♦ 9 hours (typically 3 courses)
 - ♦ Required for RA/TA appointees
 - ♦ Required for those holding student visas
 - ♦ Substantial financial implications if required but not achieved

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Further Description of Graduate Programs

- General meeting for all grad students
 - ♦ Wednesday Aug 24 3:30 PM in SN014
 - Overview of MS/PhD requirements
 - and ways to meet them
 - Questions and Answers
- There are other requirements
 - ♦ I've just covered just a few to keep in mind right now
- Online: department web site
 - ♦ Home → Academics → Graduate Programs

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Announcements

- Blog at
<http://unc-cs-gradannouncements.blogspot.com/>
- Also jobs blog at
<http://unc-cs-gradjobs.blogspot.com/>

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Advice

- Familiarize yourself with the program requirements *and deadlines*
- Take responsibility for tailoring the program to *your* interests and goals
 - ♦ *Start research early*
- Seek out and talk with your colleagues: the students, faculty, and staff of the program

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Advising Sessions

- Meet with your adviser ASAP
 - ♦ **Hold release**, register (my.unc.edu) by deadline
- Tricky questions, second opinions, adviser unavailable, etc.
 - ♦ today 6-8pm with Anselmo in FB120
 - ♦ not today, but in general: Jan Prins in FB 334

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Questions?

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