Program Orientation for PhD in CS

Introduction

C. R. Ramakrishnan, Graduate Program Director
Erez Zadok, Graduate Academic Advisor
Cindy Scalzo, Graduate Coordinator

Computer Science Department
Program Information

• Program Overview
• Degree Requirements
• Registration
• Financial Support
• Ethics and Research Responsibility
The Beginning
Welcome to PhD studies
The first step in your plan for prosperity

Phase 1. Get PhD
Phase 2. ?
Phase 3. Profit
Goal of the PhD program

To Turn Students into Scholars

... who are able to perform high-quality original research
... with preparation in the broad discipline of Computer Science
... and understand the impact of their and others’ work
... on their specialized area as well as Science and Society at large

This is usually achieved in multiple steps spread over 5 years (more or less)
PhD Program

Program’s objective is to prepare you for a successful research career.

The program provides a framework for a student to

• Obtain *breadth* in CS [Qualifiers]
• Develop skills to identify significant research topics [RPE]
• Acquire *depth* of understanding in a chosen area [Prelim]
• Gain ability to perform and evaluate original research [Dissertation & Defense]

The program’s structure is designed to evaluate progress towards these goals.
CS Department

• Administration
  • Samir Das (Chair)
  • Kathy Germana (Asst. to Chair)

• Graduate Program
  • C. R. Ramakrishnan (Graduate Program Director)
  • Erez Zadok (Graduate Academic Advisor, MS Program)
  • Cindy Scalzo (Graduate Program Coordinator)

• Graduate Admissions
  • Himanshu Gupta (Grad. Admissions Director)
  • Lourdes Hartwell (Admissions Coordinator)
  • Allison Katz (Admissions Coordinator)

• Research Administration
  • Betty Knittweis (Research payroll, other research expenditures)
  • Christine Cesaria (Research compliance)
Other Important Units

• Graduate School
  • Broader administrative support, policy making for all graduate programs in the university, petitions such as leave/change of program etc.,

• Registrar and Bursar’s Office
  • Enrollment and fees payment

• Human Resources
  • Health benefits

• Visa and Immigration Services (VIS)
Graduate Handbook and FAQ

• Describes everything you need know about MS/PhD program in CS.
• Access from the departmental web page. Go to Students->Graduate.
• Read the latest version.

Read the handbook. Keep a copy under your pillow.
Academic Advising

Every incoming PhD student has been assigned an “Academic Advisor”.

• The academic advisor will help you plan your qualifier and other courses during your first year here

• He/she will also guide you to find and begin research with your “Dissertation Advisor”

• Academic advisor may not necessarily be in your research area, but will still provide invaluable advice to guide your progress

• Email your academic advisor asap and set up an appointment to meet with him/her.
More Program Information

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Transformation wrought by PhD

How do I answer this question?

What are the interesting questions here?

PhD Program
Next Steps

• Very important:
  • Get departmental email id (xxx@cs.stonybrook.edu)
  • ... which is on grads@cs.stonybrook.edu email list.
  • Once the initial setup for these addresses is complete:
    • Important messages will be sent to these addresses.
    • No excuse for not reading them.
  • Join GRAD Piazza group

• Review Graduate Handbook and FAQs
• Be familiar with registration calendar