

Spring 2026  
**CSE PhD Student  
Orientation**

# Today's Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:30 am: PhD program requirements, resources, and more
- 10:30 – 11:00 am: Q&A

# PhD in Computer Science and Engineering

# Ph.D. Program Requirements



For PhD students who enter the program with an MS in CSE, the program requirement is 30 hours of coursework/research (includes two 6000-level courses) and 12 hours of dissertation (after completing the Research Readiness Exam).



For PhD students who do not enter the program with an MS in CSE, the program requirement is the same as above, but with an additional 30 hours of CSE coursework.

<b>PhD Milestone Chart - Time to Completion</b>				
Committee Appointment	Degree Plan	Research Readiness	Topic Proposal	
18 sch	18 sch	18 sch	36 sch	w/Master's
36 sch	18 sch	36 sch	60 sch	w/o Master's

NOTE: The above are the requirements for students who entered our PhD program in Fall 2024 or later.

# Course Transfer



For PhD students who enter the program with an MS in CSE: Up to 6 credit hours can be transferred if you hold an additional MS degree in CSE or a similar field; or if you are transferring from another institution where you were enrolled in a PhD program.



For PhD students who do not enter the program with an MS in CSE: XX Credit hours can be transferred if you are transferring from another institution where you were enrolled in a PhD or MS program. (The value of XX may vary depending on the student's circumstances.)

# Useful Links

- CSE PhD (General Information):  
<https://www.unt.edu/academics/programs/computer-science-and-engineering-phd.html>
- PhD Degree Requirements (Catalog):  
[https://catalog.unt.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=36&poid=17015&returnto=4032](https://catalog.unt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=36&poid=17015&returnto=4032)
- CSE Graduate Resources (Useful Links and Forms):  
<https://engineering.unt.edu/cse/graduate/resources.html>

# Academic Staff and Advisors for PhD program

**Kyle Baker**, PhD Admin Specialist: the first person to ask (forms, degree plans, credit transfer, etc.)

**Kirill Morozov**, PhD Program Coordinator: student questions forwarded by Kyle

**Hyunsook Do**, Associate Chair for Graduate Studies: general paperwork

**Your PhD Advisor**: always seek their advice first

**Kyle Baker**, Admin Coordinator: payroll and conference travel funding questions, other general questions

# Committee Appointment

- 4 committee members (your advisor + 3 other faculty members) are required (more than 4 is also okay).
- The PhD advisor must be a tenured/tenure-track faculty member.
- More than 50% of the PhD committee should be tenured/tenure-track faculty members from the CSE department.
- Discuss with your advisor to identify your committee members (typically those who work in your research field).



# Finding your PhD advisor (if you don't have one yet)

- Think about your research interests and what you want to do during your PhD study
- Navigate the faculty websites
  - Go through their publication list
  - Read their recent papers
  - Contact 2-3 faculty members who match your research interests (arrange a meeting via email)
- You have to find one by (the beginning of) your second semester
  - If not, a TA position won't be guaranteed for the next academic year

# Matchmaking Meeting

- We will arrange a matchmaking meeting later this semester to pair students with advisors
- When you get an invitation from Kyle, please attend the meeting (it will be **mandatory** for those who did not find an advisor by then)

# Research

- The main outcome is research papers
  - Tool/technique implementation is a necessary component
  - Empirical studies are essential for most conferences/journals  
=> take an empirical study course
- Professors have different advising styles
- Finding research topics
  - Discuss with your PhD advisor
  - Read research papers: good understanding of the research field

# Research Papers

- **Where to publish?**
  - Follow your PhD advisor's recommendations
  - Please avoid low-quality conferences/journals (not all IEEE/ACM conferences have good quality)
- **How many papers?**
  - Depending on your career goal: academia or industry?
  - Your advisor's standard
- Consider both quality and quantity

## Research Papers (cont.)

- You may experience multiple paper rejections at the beginning of your PhD study
- This is typical
- Be persistent
- You will get there eventually

# Attending Conferences

- When your paper gets accepted, you have to present the paper
- Funding for the conference registration and travel
  - Talk with your advisor first: their research grant(s) may cover those
  - Other funding sources (UNT)
    - Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) Travel Grant
    - College of Engineering (CENG) Travel Grant
    - Toulouse Graduate School (TGS) Travel Grant
    - <https://engineering.unt.edu/cse/graduate/travel.html>
    - International Student's Office
  - Student travel grants (provided by conferences)
  - Student volunteers (employed by conferences)

# What if I want to change my research topic or advisor?

- Do not wait too long.
- Talk with your advisor first:
  - Honesty is the best policy.
  - Try to find the best alternative solution for both yourself and your advisor.

# Earning your PhD degree is a long journey

- Maintain good health (physical and mental)
  - Sport activities, good sleep, and healthy food
  - Engage in academic/social events

Thank you  
for your attention!

Any questions?

