

Spring 2026

CSE PhD Student

Orientation

August 12, 2026

Today's Agenda

- 11:00-11:30 am: PhD program requirements, resources, and more
- 11:30 am – 12:00 pm (noon): Q&A

Academic Staff and Advisors for PhD program

- **Caitlin Cannon:** PhD Admin Specialist: the first person to ask (forms, degree plans, credit transfer, etc.)
- **Kirill Morozov:** PhD Program Coordinator: student questions forwarded by Caitlin
- **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

PhD Program Requirements

- When entering the program **with an MS in CSE**: 42 credit hours
 - 30 hours of coursework/research, including two 6000-level courses
 - 12 hours of dissertation credits
- When entering the program **without an MS in CSE**: 72 credit hours (beyond the bachelor's degree)
 - At least 30 hours of **organized** graduate coursework in CSE, including two 6000-level courses
 - For Pass-Through Masters: including → plus
 - 12 hours of dissertation credits

PhD Program Milestones

	Committee Appointment	Degree Plan	Research Readiness Exam	Proposal (Exam)
With MS	2 nd sem.	2 nd sem.	4 th sem.	5 th sem.
Without MS	2 nd sem.	2 nd sem.	4 th sem.	7 th sem.

- This timeline is a recommendation; the actual timeline is decided upon discussion with the PhD advisor

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

- Select your area of PhD study
- Navigate the faculty websites
- Go through their publication list and check their recent papers
- Contact 2-3 faculty members whose research interests align with yours and arrange a meeting (via email)
- You have to find a PhD advisor by (the beginning of) your second semester

Matchmaking Meeting

- We will arrange a **matchmaking meeting** later this semester to pair students with advisors
- Attending this meeting is **mandatory** for those who did not find an advisor by then
- Also, a good networking opportunity

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

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 (TTT) faculty member
- More than 50% of the PhD committee should be TTT faculty members from the CSE department
- Discuss with your advisor to identify potential committee members: typically, faculty whose research interests align with your area of study

- It should be submitted by the end of your 2nd semester
- It is a **plan**, so it can be updated later

LIST UNT AND TRANSFER COURSES BY PREFIX, NUMBER AND TITLE. INDICATE WHERE TRANSFER COURSES WERE TAKEN. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS SHOWING TRANSFER WORK MUST BE ON FILE IN THE GRADUATE OFFICE. INDICATE TRANSFER COURSES BY ASTERISKS AND LIST BY PREFIX AND NUMBER AS THEY APPEAR ON TRANSCRIPTS. (Whenever applicable, a maximum of 3 non-CSE courses can be listed.)

[illegible]

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=39&poiid=20702&returnto=4523
- CSE Graduate Resources (Useful Links and Forms):
<https://engineering.unt.edu/cse/graduate/resources.html>

Research

- The main outcome is research papers
 - Tool/technique implementation is an essential component
 - Empirical evaluation is a key requirement for publication in most conferences/journals
- Professors have different advising styles
- Finding research topics
 - Discuss with your PhD advisor
 - Read research papers: good understanding of your area

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?**

- 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 (part of the process)
- Be persistent
- You will get there eventually

Attending Conferences

- When your paper gets accepted, you have to present it
- Funding for the conference registration and travel is required
- Talk with your advisor first: their research grant(s) may cover those

Attending Conferences (cont.)

- 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 all for your attention!

Any questions?