Computer Science Graduate Student Orientation

Prasad Tadepalli
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Oregon State University, Corvallis
Home page: http://www.cs.orst.edu/~tadepall
CS Advising Guide:
http://eecs.oregonstate.edu/graduate/cs/advising.html
The Harvard Guide to Happiness

From *Making the Most of College* by Richard Light.

- Get to know the faculty.
- Take a mix of (e.g., research, core) courses
- Study in groups.
- Set aside an uninterrupted time for study.
- Consider courses in other programs/departments.
- Choose courses that improve technical writing.
- Develop a hobby.
Getting into Research

• Attend your research group’s meetings.

• Attend the colloquium (507-1, R 3:30-5:00) and the graduate seminar (507-2, W 4-5).

• Talk to the professors and their students about what they are doing.

• Study the professors’ research papers. Ask questions.

• Take an advanced course, “research” (cs501) or “reading and comprehension” courses (cs505) with a professor.

• Start working on some project with a professor.
Doing Research

1. Read a lot: reading what others did is faster than doing it yourself. BUT, you always learn more if you do it yourself!

2. Learn about other areas within and outside CS: Everything is connected. Attend talks.


4. Meet regularly [at least once a week] with your major professor. Go well-prepared.

5. Make tangible progress each week. Write a summary of a paper, implement something, do some experiments, propose an approach, make a conjecture, find a counterexample.

6. Make goals for each term, discuss them with your advisor, and try to meet them.
Resources

**Academic Advisor:** General advice on academic matters. Assigned by the department.

**Major Professor:** Chosen by you. Directs your research project and replaces the academic advisor.

**Head Graduate Advisor:** Default academic advisor. Will be happy to see you on any issue!

**Ph.D. Committee:** Needs 4 professors and a graduate school representative. 3 must be from CS.

**M.S. Committee:** Needs 3 professors. Also a graduate school representative in the case of Thesis option.

**Filing a Program:** A “contract” of the courses taken/to be taken. Must file within two quarters for M.S., by December 15’th of the second year for Ph.D.
Open Labs

Hovland 108: MACs and PCs
Dearborn 115: HP Unix lab
Dearborn 119: PC lab
Rogers 333: Unix lab
Owen 235: Unix lab

Dial up: Visit http://www.onid.orst.edu
Email to support@cs if you have any questions/problems.
Masters Degree Requirements

1. Undergraduate core requirement

2. 45 hours of graduate level courses

3. Distribution requirement: At least 2 courses each from:
   (a) Theoretical Computer Science
   (b) Languages and Systems
   (c) Real-World Computing
   with 3.0 GPA.

4. Colloquium Requirement: Attendance in the weekly colloquium (507-1) during the first year.

5. A coherent set of 3 or more courses in the research area

6. At most 6 credits of “blanket-numbered” (50X) courses
7.(a) Thesis: 9 credits. A modest research contribution and a publishable paper.

OR

(b) Project: 6 credits. A significant piece of software/system design/experimental work/theory/survey paper/... and a project report.

8. A final oral exam on the course work and the thesis/project
Ph.D Degree Requirements

1. Undergraduate core requirement
2. 120 hours of graduate level courses
3. Passing Ph.D. qualifier
4. Distribution requirement
5. Colloquium requirement
6. A minimum of three courses from the Theory area, and a minimum of three courses each from two other areas
7. Successful completion of preliminary examination
8. A Ph.D. dissertation involving at least 36 credits (CS 603)
9. Satisfactory performance in a final oral defense of the thesis
10. At most 15 hours of blanket numbered courses
Undergraduate Core Requirement

**Purpose:** To ensure that all students have the core background in Computer Science.

**Areas:** 1. Automata and Formal Languages (CS321*)
   2. Algorithms and Data Structures (CS325*)
   3. Operating Systems (CS411*)
   4. Computer Architecture (CS472)
   5. Translators or Programming Languages (CS480 or CS381*)

**Procedure:** Fill up the course equivalency form and see your advisor this week.

**Time Limit:** Must complete the missing courses in the first year.
Ph.D. Qualifier

1. Research an area or topic selected by your committee and write a paper on it (in a month).
2. Present the paper to your committee and answer questions on the paper.
3. Answer questions on the course-work.
4. Time frame: May to October 15’th the following year for all Ph.D. students.
5. Atmost two attempts to pass.
6. M.S. students who want to continue as Ph.D. students may take it during their M.S.
Ph.D. Prelims

1. Write a 15-page proposal on the intended research
2. Presentation of proposal and answering questions
3. Answering questions on the course work
4. May have a written as well as oral component
5. Time frame: At least by the first term of the third year
Course Registration

1. All supported students should register for 12 hours.
2. Unsupported students need at least 9 hours.
3. International students must check with the Office of International Education (OIE) if they need to register for fewer credits (e.g., going on internship), leave country etc.
4. Students who have completed their course work and are doing their thesis or project may apply for reduced enrollment of 3 credits.
Supplies Policy

• Graduate teaching/research assistants may use supplies in order to fulfill their teaching/research obligations.
  – A GTA wants to put up some transparencies during her recitation section.
  – She also wants to give out copies of her transparencies to the students.

• Graduate students may not use departmental supplies to complete their homework or degree requirements.
  – A GRA is to give a presentation in the course he is taking.
Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is defined as an intentional act of deception.

- When a student turns in the work of another person or from the internet and represents it as his or her own work.
- When a student knowingly permits another to turn in his work.
- When a student deliberately transforms borrowed sections of code or assignments in order to disguise their origin.
- When several students collaborate on a project or homework when it is forbidden.
- When a student steals or obtains examinations, answer keys, or program samples.
Penalty for Academic Dishonesty

- Grade of ’F’ will be awarded for the course.
- A report of Academic Dishonesty will be filed.
- A report will be forwarded to the College of Engineering where additional actions may be taken.
- If there is a second incident, the student will be dismissed from the department.

Don’t Even Think About It!
Students with Disabilities

- Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability.
- Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is responsible for administering a number of support services, e.g., alternative testing, notes taking, etc.
- The disability must be documented.
Courses Offered in Fall

- CS 515 Algorithms and Data Structures (4)
- CS 527 Error Correcting Codes (4)
- CS 531 Artificial Intelligence (4)
- CS 550 Introduction to Computer Graphics (4)
- CS 556 Computer Vision (4)
- CS 562 Applied Software Engineering (4)
- CS 581 Programming Languages (4)
- CS 501 Research (needs a professor’s permission)
- CS 505 Reading and Comprehension (needs a professor’s permission)
- CS 507-1 (Colloquium), 507-2 (Graduate), 507-3 (TAs)
Cultural and Professional Groups

Indian Students Association: www.orst.edu/groups/india
Chinese Students Association: www.orst.edu/groups/china
Grad email list (unmoderated): cs-grad-talk@engr.orst.edu
CSGSA: Graduate Student Association
ACM: Prof. Herlocker
Sigma-Xi: Prof. Cull
Upsilon-Pi-Epsilon: Prof. Cull
IEEE: Prof. Bose
Fall Calendar

September 19-28  OSU Connect: New Student Orientation
September 22    OIE orientation for international students
September 23    EECS Orientation
September 27-28  Fall Festival
September 29    Classes Begin
September 29    Late Registration Begins
October 1       Research Festival 4-6 PM, MU Ball room
October 2       $10 Drop and S/U Fees Begin
October 5       Last day to add a class by web/telephone
November 27-28  Thanksgiving Holiday
December 8-12   Final Exams Week
Research Groups

**Algorithms:** Cull, Quinn, Sethia

**Computer Graphics and Vision:** Metoyer, Mortensen, Sethia

**Computer Systems:** Bose, Minoura

**Information Access:** Erwig, Herlocker, Pancake

**Intelligent Systems:** D’Ambrosio, Dietterich, Tadepalli

**Programming Languages:** Budd, Burnett, Erwig

**Software Engineering:** Burnett, Rothermel