**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Program Learning Outcomes for the MS and PhD Degrees in the field of Computer Science**

Upon completing the MS and PhD degrees in the field of Computer Science, students will be able to:

1. Acquire a solid foundation in Computer Science at graduate level. Students will demonstrate a graduate-level understanding of material across a variety of sub-disciplines, be able to synthesize problem solutions by combining knowledge from different sources, and demonstrate a deep knowledge of sub-area in which they will pursue their thesis.

2. Conduct an independent research program. Students will identify and pose a research problem, place that problem in context within the field's established literature, and conduct an independent investigation that leads to credible scientific results.

3. Demonstrate professional skills in both oral and written communication. Students will write well-organized, coherent technical prose, deliver a professional presentation on par with a solid conference presentation, demonstrate the ability to describe scientific issues and techniques in writing and in presentation, and be able to answer unanticipated technical questions in a public setting.

**Requirements for the MS and PhD Degrees in the field of Computer Science**

**MS Degree Program**

The MS degree is a thesis master's degree. For general university requirements, please see [Thesis Master's Degrees](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Students who successfully meet the first three requirements listed in the requirements for the PhD degree below are awarded the Master of Science degree.

**Summary**

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**Requirements for the PhD Degree in the field of Computer Science**

**PhD Degree Program**

For general university requirements, please see [Doctoral Degrees](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-doctoral-degrees/). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see [All Graduate Students](https://ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/). Students pursuing the PhD degree in the field of Computer Science must:

- Meet departmental course requirements as described in the Computer Science Department's graduate student handbook available at: [https://www.cs.rice.edu/academics/graduate-studies/phd/](https://www.cs.rice.edu/academics/graduate-studies/phd/).
- Conduct original research, submit an acceptable PhD thesis proposal, and successfully defend the thesis proposal.
- Complete a COMP 590 project by the end of the third semester.
- Complete a master's thesis by the end of the fifth semester, if a previous master's thesis has not been approved by the graduate committee.
- Pass a qualifying examination in an area of specialization within seven semesters after entering the PhD program.
- Conduct an independent research program. Students will identify and pose a research problem, place that problem in context within the field's established literature, and conduct an independent investigation that leads to credible scientific results.
- Complete a master's thesis by the end of the fifth semester, if a previous master's thesis has not been approved by the graduate committee.
- Pass a qualifying examination in an area of specialization within seven semesters after entering the PhD program.
- Assist in the teaching and administration of undergraduate and graduate education. The doctoral program normally requires four to six years of study.

**Policies for the PhD Degree in the field of Computer Science**

**Department of Computer Science Graduate Program Handbook**

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the department of Computer Science publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here: [https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2020_21/Computer_Science_Graduate_Handbook.pdf](https://gradhandbooks.rice.edu/2020_21/Computer_Science_Graduate_Handbook.pdf)

**Financial Assistance**

Fellowships and research assistantships are available to students in the PhD program. Both provide a monthly stipend for the academic year and cover all tuition expenses. More substantial monthly stipends may be available during the summer for students working on departmental research projects. In all cases, continued support is contingent on satisfactory progress in the program. PhD students also are expected to assist in the teaching and administration of undergraduate and graduate courses.

**Additional Information**

For additional information, please see the [Graduate Programs](https://www.cs.rice.edu/academics/graduate-programs) website at [https://www.cs.rice.edu/academics/graduate-programs](https://www.cs.rice.edu/academics/graduate-programs) or contact the department at gradapp@rice.edu.
Opportunities for the PhD Degree in the field of Computer Science

Additional Information
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