Reading List Exam and Advancing to Candidacy

By the end of the 3rd year in the program, each student must pass a reading list exam. The examining committee will consist of at least three faculty members with at most one being an affiliate faculty member whose primary appointment is in another department. The reading list shall be submitted to the committee for approval at least 6 weeks before the exam, and shall be finalised at least 4 weeks in advance. The reading list shall consist of at least 30 papers spread across 3 sub-areas, with at least 10 papers from each area. Aug 1 is the deadline for students starting in the Fall, and Jan 6 for students starting in the Spring.

By the end of the 4th year in the program, a student must advance to candidacy by successfully defending his or her dissertation proposal in an oral examination. The examining committee will have the same composition as is required right now (i.e., the Dept. Rep. shall be from a different area).

If a student is ready to advance to candidacy by the end of the 3rd year, the two exams can be held together on the same day.

Course Requirements

Ph.D. students are required to take 4 breadth courses, with at least one from each of the following groups, to satisfy the breadth requirements for the Ph.D. degree. Only Ph.D. core courses (600-700 level), identified by the graduate office can be used for this requirement.

1. Systems/Networking/Databases
3. Programming Languages/Software Systems
4. Applications (AI,Vision,NLP,HCI,CompBio,Graphics)

Students must complete at least three of the breadth courses with a grade of A, and the fourth with a grade of B or better. In addition, the students shall take 3 more Ph.D core courses (600-700). The student must get at least 4 A’s in these 7 courses. The 7 courses shall be completed in at most 5 semesters with the required grade distribution.

In addition, the students shall take 2 more graduate course that may be seminars or may be graduate courses in other departments. The additional 2 courses must be completed before the student graduates.