Coursework Requirements

The graduate office will identify a set of 600-700 level grad courses referred to as *Ph.D. core courses*, and classify them into the following groups:

- Systems/Networking/Databases
- Programming Languages/Software Systems
- Applications (AI,Vision,NLP,HCI,CompBio,Graphics)

Each Ph.D. student shall satisfy the following coursework requirements:

1. The student shall take one Ph.D. core course from each group, to satisfy the breadth requirements for the Ph.D. degree. The student must complete at least three of these courses with a grade of A, and the fourth with a grade of B or better.
2. In addition, the student shall take three additional Ph.D. qualifying courses.
3. The student must get at least four A’s in these seven PhD (core+qualifying) courses, and complete this requirement in at most 5 semesters of starting the PhD program.
4. In addition, the students shall take two more graduate courses, which may be seminars or may be graduate courses in other departments. The additional two courses must be completed before the student graduates.

Reading List Exam

Each research area shall prepare a collection of reading lists, one for each of its sub-areas. (For example, the Algorithms & Theory area may have sub-areas of cryptography, complexity theory, parallel algorithms, computational geometry, graph algorithms, etc.) Each sub-area reading list shall consist of a set of papers. The graduate office will make the reading lists publicly available, and these are expected to be updated every three years (if necessary).

Each student must pass a reading list exam by the end of the 3rd year in the program, with Aug 20 being the deadline for students starting in the Fall and Jan 20 for students starting in the Spring.

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1 A Ph.D. qualifying course is a course whose grade is primarily based on exams, this includes our standard Ph.D. 600-800 courses as well as selected 800 level (non-seminar) courses.
1. The examining committee will consist of at least three faculty members, of which at least two are regular faculty in Computer Science (i.e., tenure-track or tenured faculty, not adjunct, affiliate, or visiting), and one is a department representative not from the student’s research area.

2. The student will submit a list of three sub-areas to be examined on after selecting 10 papers from each sub-area. This list shall be submitted to the committee for approval at least 6 weeks before the exam, and shall be finalised at least 4 weeks before the exam.

Proposal Exam and Advancing to Candidacy

Each student must advance to candidacy by passing his or her dissertation proposal examination by the end of the 4th year in the program. The examining committee shall consist of (as currently required): (1) dissertation advisor (who is the committee chair); (2) departmental representative outside your research area (suggested by your advisor, chosen by the department); and (3) at least one additional faculty member, chosen by you and your advisor. In addition, at least two faculty must be regular faculty in Computer Science.

If a student is ready for the proposal examination by the end of the 3rd year, the reading list exam can be also held on the same day.