

Graduate School in Computer Science



Why, How and What

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The goal

- Why would you want to be a CS grad student?
- How do you go about becoming a CS grad student?
- What's it like to be a CS grad student?
 - from both a faculty and current grad student perspective
 - what is research?
- Ask *lots* of questions!!!



The agenda

- Heather Murray

- applications and admissions
- grad student support from the CS dept.

- Jon Katz

- why should you get an advanced degree in CS (M.S. or Ph.D.)
- doing research, emphasizing cryptography, security, and theory

- Atif Memon

- doing research as an undergrad – why and how
- doing research, emphasis on software engineering



The agenda (cont.)

- Michelle Hugue
 - picking a grad school
 - “having a life as a grad student”
- Chau-Wen Tseng
 - more on why to get an advanced degree
 - doing research, emphasizing programming languages and bioinformatics
- Bill Gasarch
 - what admissions committees look for
 - why doing research is good as an undergrad
 - more on picking a grad school



The agenda (cont.)

- Graduate student panel:
Fusun Yaman, Nan Wang, Azarakhsh
Malekian, Morgan Kleene



Additional Resources

- Dianne O'Leary's Grad Student Survival Guide
 - <http://www.cs.umd.edu/users/oleary/gradstudy/gradstudy.html>
 - also linked off CS dept. home page, under Graduate Program link
- Tips on writing a statement of purpose
 - <http://www.cs.umd.edu/users/arun/grad/sop.html>



Additional Resources

- Michelle Hugue on grad school
 - <http://www.cs.umd.edu/class/fall2003/cmsc420/grad/grad.html> (.ps and .pdf there too)
- These slides, and other slide presentations today (and last year), available off my home page – <http://www.cs.umd.edu/~als>