

PhD Degree in Computer Science (PCSC): Requirements and Timelines

Division of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS), Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

All LSU Graduate School regulations and procedures apply (<http://gradlsu.gs.lsu.edu>). In addition, the degree requirements and timelines set by the CSE Division apply. The PhD degree requires a dissertation, and a minimum of 55 hours of credit at the graduate level (4 core courses, 8 electives, 1 seminar, and at least 18 research hours). It is the student's responsibility to read, understand, and satisfy the Graduate School and CSE Division requirements.

Year One:

- Attend graduate student orientation/reception.
- Meet with the Graduate Advisor in the first week of the semester.
- Take core courses (at least 3) and electives in the first year.
- Enroll in the graduate seminar course (CSC 7800).
- File a plan of study specifying research goals and course work.
- Decide on a research topic/area and choose a PhD Advisor (Major Professor) from the CSE Division.
- Form a PhD advisory committee of three members with the Advisor serving as the chair. A faculty from another department or an adjunct faculty can serve as the co-advisor (co-chair).
- Annual evaluation consists of course work, plan of study, and advisor's feedback.

Year Two:

- Enroll in the remaining core courses and electives, and CSC 9000 (if needed).
- Must make first attempt to the Research Qualifying Exam.
- Annual evaluation consists of course work, research qualifier result, and advisor's feedback.

Year Three:

- Must retake core courses with grade below B- and failed research qualifier, if any.
- Enroll in research hours (CSC 9000) in addition to regular courses (electives).
- May take the PhD General Examination (Oral Proposal Defense).
- Annual evaluation consists of course work, research progress, and committee's feedback.

Year Four:

- Enroll in research hours (CSC 9000).
- Must take the PhD General Examination (Oral Proposal Defense) before the end of the fourth year.
- May take the PhD Defense (Final Exam) and graduate.
- Annual evaluation consists of General Exam, research progress, and committee's feedback.

Year Five and Beyond:

- Enroll in research hours (CSC 9000).
- Strongly recommended to take the Final Exam (Oral Defense) and graduate by the end of the 5th year.
- Annual evaluation consists of research progress (papers, dissertation), and committee's feedback.

For more information, refer the complete PhD policy (www.cse.lsu.edu) and contact the Graduate Advisor Costas Busch (busch@csc.lsu.edu).

Each core course (three mandatory CSC 7101, 7103, 7300, and one of CSC 4890, 7080, 7135) is offered once a year. The student can also enroll in CSC 7999 and apply 3 credit hours to substitute one elective only.

The final exam (oral defense) requires the dissertation be submitted to the advisory committee 2 weeks in advance and the exam be announced 3 days prior to the examination date.

Graduate teaching assistantship is awarded/renewed on an annual basis given the student's satisfactory performance and his or her continuous registration in only the doctoral program.