MS and PhD in Computer Science Program Handbook

Welcome

Message from Chair

Welcome to the UNLV Department of Computer Science (CS) graduate program at the Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering. We are pleased to recognize the research and scholarly efforts of the graduate faculty and students. Our graduate program offers MS and PhD degrees, and is designed to pursue research at the frontiers of computer science and applications areas. The UNLV CS Graduate program offers a unique academic experience because we focus on students pursuing advanced degrees and an education that will expand your knowledge base and propel your career. By combining rigorous academics with real-world application, our students are better prepared to apply their education to real-world problems. The graduate program is supported by faculty who are actively participating in research and development in specialized areas, such as algorithm analysis, database systems, document image processing, scheduling, computational geometry, computer security, parallel programming, distributed computing, programming languages, software engineering, and multi-media. Four in-house computer laboratories support teaching and research activities. The UNLV CS graduate program is especially proud of its alumni. Their accomplishments are a signature of our programs and our best testimony to the value of a UNLV CS Graduate education. We look forward to a day when you can join their esteemed ranks.

Mission Statement(s)

Our mission is to assure overall quality of the CS graduate education and promote culturally and intellectually diverse learning environments in which scholarship and creativity can flourish. In realizing this mission, the Graduate Program acts to recruit, support, retain, and matriculate scholars, researchers, and practitioners educationally empowered with critical skills to become agents of innovation, opportunity, and change.

Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to provide program specific information that is not found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Students are responsible for understanding and following the policies and procedures delineated in this document and the UNLV Graduate Catalog, as well as the NSHE Code, UNLV Bylaws, and the UNLV Student Conduct Code. Questions about policies should be directed to the Graduate College: valarie.burke@unlv.edu or GradAssociateDean@unlv.edu.

Department Graduate Faculty

A current listing of the graduate faculty can be found in the UNLV Graduate Catalog. Faculty must hold either associate or full graduate faculty status to be involved in graduate education at UNLV. For up to date information regarding graduate faculty status in your department, visit the Graduate Faculty status web page.

Program Information

MS Program
PhD Program

Contact Information

Department Website: http://www.cs.unlv.edu

Department Chair
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Graduate Coordinator
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Program Requirements

Program requirements regarding admission, coursework and culminating experience for the MS Program and for the PhD Program are found in the graduate catalog.

Advisory Committee Guidelines
Computer Science follows the guideline of the Graduate College. The role of the advisory committee is described in the Degree Progression Policies & Procedures section.

Degree Program Benchmarks
This is described in the Graduate Catalog for the Master Program and here for the Ph.D. degree.

Program Timeline
The general guideline is listed in the graduate catalog under the Graduate Study Timeline section. In Computer Science, it is expected to take two years for the Master degree and four to six years for the Ph.D. degree.

Professional Code of Ethics/Discipline Guidelines
UNLV Graduate College policy regarding academic integrity can be found in the graduate catalog.

Annual Review Procedures
Each spring term, graduate students are required to complete the Graduate Student Annual Review survey. This survey will be sent by the Graduate College to the student's Rebelmail account. The review covers the prior calendar year and assesses student progress while setting goals for the year ahead.

Probation
If a student fails to successfully progress in their degree program, their department/school will recommend that the student be placed on probation by the Graduate College. Students on probation may be dismissed/separated from their program for failing to successfully meet the conditions of their probation by the deadline provided. Please see the Probation and Separation section of the Graduate Catalog for more information.

Additional Program Information
Computer Science department offers research opportunities in the following areas:
1. Design and analysis of algorithms
2. Operating and distributed systems
3. Computer architecture and networking
4. Computational geometry and robotics
5. Computer graphics and image processing
6. Programming languages and compiler construction
7. Artificial intelligence and expert systems
8. Database design, document analysis, and retrieval
9. Software engineering
10. Information security
11. Data science

Ph.D. students are expected to make a significant contribution to the Computer Science research community through research publications. Those students who are aiming for an academic career are required to build a stronger research record.

Discipline Resources

Computer Science professional organizations include Association for Computing Machinery (ACM, http://www.acm.org) and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Computer Society (http://www.computer.org). Student memberships are available for graduate students at a low cost. Both organizations offer a large collection of research articles through their digital library (http://ieeexplore.ieee.org and http://dl.acm.org) that is accessible from any computer on campus or from off campus through UNLV library services. For publication writing style, both ACM and IEEE provide a paper template on their web site. UNLV Computer Science department is an institutional member of Computing Research Association (CRA). Its web site (http://www.cra.org) offers valuable resources for Computer Science researchers including the current research issues, enrollment information in Computer Science, employment data and salary information for Computer Science graduates. There are hundreds of conferences and journals in Computer Science. Their ranking information is available in a few dozen web sites and can be easily found through web search. For conference attendance, partial travel support is available from UNLV Graduate and Professional Student Association (http://www.unlv.edu/gpsa/sponsorship-awards/sponsorships).

University Resources

Academic Success Center

The goal of the Academic Success Center is to help students do well academically and complete they studies on time. They offer or will refer you to such programs and resources as tutoring, advising, skills testing, career exploration and more. They guide students every step of the way to the many established resources created to ensure they complete their educational goals. Learn more about the programs and services the center currently offers.

Alumni Association

With an alumni base 90,000 strong, the UNLV Alumni Association offers a variety of services and opportunities in support of alumni and their families. UNLV alumni are encouraged to support the values of higher learning through advocacy, involvement, and giving.

Commencement Office

Located in the UNLV Registrar's Office, the commencement office is the last step in the graduation process. Please check with the commencement office for information on the commencement ceremony and your diploma; for all other information about graduate student degree completion and graduation, including thesis/dissertation requirements and doctoral hooding, please contact the Graduate College.

Office of Diversity Initiatives

The vision of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to advocate, promote, and support the advancement of equity, inclusiveness, and empowerment of a continuously changing collegiate and global community. The mission of the Office of Diversity Initiatives is to provide leadership and support for UNLV's diversity mission: *to nurture equity, diversity, and inclusiveness that promotes respect, support, and empowerment*. This Office also handles UNLV Title IX questions, inquiries, and reporting.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC is committed to supporting students with disabilities at UNLV through the appropriate use of advocacy, accommodations, and supportive services to ensure access to campus courses, services, and activities. The DRC is the university-designated office that determines and facilitates reasonable accommodations in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Graduate students with disabilities must disclose to the DRC in order to receive appropriate accommodations.

Office of International Student and Scholars

International Students and Scholars (ISS) ensures compliance with both SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) and federal law, so that the university can continue to be authorized by the U.S. federal government to enroll international students; host and hire international scholars; assist and advise employment eligibility and authorization relating to international students and scholars, and visa, travel, and immigration issues; provide critical and specialized services to the international students and scholars of the UNLV community; and facilitate their transition to the campus and the U.S.

Jean Nidetch Women's Center

The Jean Nidetch Women's Center is committed to creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all genders through programming, services, and advocacy for the UNLV community. The Women's Center has informational resources, brochures, and flyers for a variety of on and off campus organizations to help empower and protect yourself, and learn about your options. They also provide free tampons, pads, and condoms.

UNLV Libraries

UNLV Libraries has always been more than books; they are about encouraging students and creating quality programs that elevate growth and learning. Please visit their website for important information about the services they offer to graduate students.

Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

The Graduate & Professional Student Association serves all currently enrolled University of Nevada, Las Vegas graduate and professional students. The GPSA maintains the Graduate Student Commons located in the Lied Library room 2141. The facility a working office equipped with a copier, fax, flatbed scanners, color laser printer, office supplies, and computers with printers and a small kitchen area. The GPSA is the graduate student governance body at UNLV; the GPSA Council consists of one graduate student representative from each graduate department, and they meet monthly. The GPSA also provides volunteer opportunities, sponsors social events, and supports graduate student research through the graduate research and travel grants program.

Office of Student Conduct

The Office of Student Conduct is a student-centered, service-oriented office located within the Division of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Conduct collaborates with the UNLV community to provide an inclusive system through enforcement of the *UNLV Student Code of Conduct* by:

- Promoting awareness of student rights and responsibilities;
- Establishing accountability for student choices;
- Creating opportunities for involvement in the process; and
- Striving to uphold the values and ethics that advance the common good.

Office of Veteran Services

The UNLV Office of Veteran Services is staffed with veterans and GI Bill-experienced staff to assist more than 1,000 veterans, dependents, active duty service members, National Guard members, and reservists. Their mission is to develop a welcoming, veteran-friendly campus environment that fosters academic and personal success.

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office supports higher-education access and persistence by providing financial aid to eligible students. The office partners with student organizations, the UNLV Foundation, the Graduate College, and other external constituents to provide financial aid learning opportunities and scholarship support for graduate students.

Writing Center

This is a free service to UNLV students to help you with any writing project, from papers to creative writing, to resumes, and we can work with you at any stage of the writing process. The center can help you brainstorm, make an outline, work on your drafts, or just be a soundboard for your ideas. The center staff can assist you in person, or via the Online Writing Lab (OWL) page.

University Policies and Procedures

Graduate students are responsible for knowing and acting in accordance with UNLV Policies and Procedures. To view the most commonly referenced campus policies and procedures, you can refer to the following websites:

- Academic Integrity
- Activation for Military Service
- FERPA/Privacy Rights

- Health Insurance - Mandatory
- Jeanne Clery Campus Safety and Security Report
- Proof of Immunization
- Policies and Procedures on the Protection of Research Subjects
- Rebelmail Policy
- Student Conduct Code
- Student Computer Use Policy
- Title IX

To ensure compliance with Graduate College policies and procedures, please review the relevant sections of the Graduate Catalog:

- Academic Calendar
- Academic Policies
- Admission and Registration Information
- Degree Progression Policies & Procedures

In addition, the Graduate College website contains additional information regarding policies and procedures.

Nothing in this handbook supersedes any NSHE, UNLV, or Graduate College policy.

Handbook Information

Last revised	Revised by	Changes summary