

Program requirement	Semester Hours
MS degree credit	30
PhD courses in same unit	9
PhD courses in other unit	3
Research methodology courses	12 or 15
Breadth CSIS courses in other unit	3 or 6
PhD Dissertation	30

Total Hours 90 semester hours

If you have a specialized master's degree in IS from a business school or a CS masters you are waived from the MSIS or MSCS degree requirements. If you do not have a specialized masters degree you may submit petitions to waive the prerequisite MS level courses.

IS students entering the program without a masters degree in information systems from a business school can submit petitions to waive MS in Information Systems (MSIS) courses.

CS students without a masters degree in Computer Science can submit petitions to waive MS in Computer Science (MSCS) courses.

Petitions should be submitted to the appropriate graduate advisor in the first semester of the program. Information Systems students should submit a separate petition to waive each prerequisite MSIS level course listed below:

- **Business Process Management** ISMG6040
- **Analysis, Modeling, and Design** ISMG6060
- **Data Base Management Systems** ISMG6080
- **IT Infrastructure** ISMG6120
- Either **Object-Oriented Business Programming** ISMG6020 or **Information Systems Management and Strategy** ISMG6180

All the general requirements of the Graduate School apply, even if not mentioned explicitly, in particular the language and residency requirements.

Program Design

As in most PhD programs, the goals are achieved by the coursework and research training as summarized in Table 2. The courses will be of three types:

- courses designed and offered specifically for the CSIS PhD program
- research methodology courses to provide background in CSIS reference disciplines
- graduate courses already offered by the participating academic units

The research methodology courses and [the interdisciplinary dissertation](#) provide research training so you will have the skills to perform research.

Depending on the unit (Business or CSE) and your advisor, a maximum of 6 hours of research methodology courses may be taken as seminars or independent study courses.

[The dissertation](#) requires you to conduct original research under close supervision by the CSIS faculty.

After completing the research methodology courses and other CSIS courses, you should be prepared to perform independent research leading to the completion of a dissertation.

Requirement	Purpose	Full-time progress
CSIS PhD courses	Broad foundation in CSIS areas and research methods and depth of knowledge in selected sub areas	Years 1 and 2
Methodology courses	Background in important reference disciplines and research skills for publication-quality articles	Years 1 and 2
Breadth CSIS courses	Broad exposure to CSIS practice areas	Primarily in year 2
Prelim exam	Assessment to continue the program	CS track: within the first two years IS track: after completing doctoral courses.
Comprehensive exam	Paper and oral presentation specifying a significant research problem	Complete in year 3 or 4
PhD proposal	Detailed investigation of significant research problems with demonstrated potential to complete dissertation	Complete in year 4
Dissertation defense	Rigorous, original, and significant contribution to CSIS	Complete in year 4

All CSIS doctoral students take the PhD courses offered by their unit plus one PhD course from the other unit.

Other PhD courses from the other unit may be taken to fulfill the breadth requirement.

Sample PhD Programs

Full-Time Student with an MS Degree in Information Systems

The curriculum varies according to the home academic unit of the student. If the student does not have an MS in Information Systems, additional course work may be required. Table 3 shows a sample curriculum for full-time students with the Business School as their home unit.

Table 3. Sample Programs for Full-Time Students with a MS in Information Systems			
Course	Fall	Spring	Total
First year			
Research methodology		6	
CSE PhD course	3		
BUS PhD course	3	3	
Total	6	9	15
Second year			
BUS PhD course	3		
CSE Breadth		3	
Research Methodology	3	6	
Total	6	9	15
Third year			
Dissertation Research and Proposal	9	9	
Total	9	9	12
Fourth year			
Dissertation Research and Defense	6	6	
Total	6	6	12

Full-Time Student with an MS Degree in Computer Science

You may enter the PhD program with master degree in computer science or a closely related discipline, like computer engineering. If the degree is not in CS, additional work will be required to ensure minimum level of competence. Table 4 shows a sample program, it is identical to one for students with an MS in information systems except for year 2.

Table 4. Sample Program for Full-Time Students with a MS in Computer Science			
Course	Fall	Spring	Total
First year			
CSE PhD course	3	3	
BUS PhD course		3	
Research methodology	3	3	

Total	6	9	15
Second year			
Research methodology	3	6	
CSE PhD	3		
BUS Breadth		3	
Total	6	9	15
Third year			
Dissertation Research and Proposal	9	9	
Total	9	9	18
Fourth year			
Dissertation Research and Defense	6	6	
Total	6	6	12

Part-Time Student with an MS Degree

To meet the needs of local industry, students can enroll in the PhD program on a part-time basis. Because of variations in timing of course offerings and individual student needs, actual programs for part-time students may differ considerably. The sample programs are given in Tables 5 and 6 assume that the student passes the comprehensive exam in the beginning of the third year.

Because of graduate school rules, part-time students must take between 5 to 10 hours of dissertation credit per semester after passing the comprehensive exam. After reaching 30 hours of dissertation credit, a student only needs to register for 1 hour per semester.

Course	Fall	Spring	Total
First year			
BUS PhD course	3	3	
CSE PhD course	3		
Total	6	3	12
Second year			
BUS PhD course	3		
Research methodology	3	3	
Total	6	3	12
Third year			
Dissertation research		6	
Research methodology	3	3	

Total	3	9	12
Fourth year			
CSE breadth courses		3	
Research methodology	3		
Dissertation Research	6	6	
Total	9	9	18
Fifth year			
Dissertation Research and Proposal	6	6	
Total	6	6	12
Sixth year			
Dissertation Research and Defense	1	1	
Total	1	1	2

Table 6. Sample Program for Part-Time Students with an MS in Computer Science

Course	Fall	Spring	Total
First year			
CSE PhD course	3	3	
Research methodology	3		
Total	6	3	9
Second year			
Research methodology		3	
CSE PhD course	3		
BUS PhD course		3	
Total	3	6	9
Third year			
Research methodology	3	3	
PhD research		6	
Total	3	9	12
Fourth year			
BUS Breadth		3	
Dissertation Research	3		
Dissertation Research	6	6	
Total	9	9	18
Fifth year			

Dissertation Research and Proposal	6	6	
Total	6	6	12
Sixth year			
Dissertation Research and Defense	1	1	
Total	1	1	2