

Computer Science Senior Thesis

CSCI 4950 Course Enrollment Form

Submit this form to your Computer Science undergraduate academic advisor by the end of the second week of each semester in which you are enrolling in CSCI 4950 Senior Thesis.

Full Name

Student ID Number

Date

CU Email Address

Faculty Advisor

Thesis Topic

Committee Members

Requesting enrollment for
which semester?

Number of thesis credit
hours this semester:

Number of thesis credit hours
previously completed:

Date of midterm proposal
defense (first semester only):

Date of this semester's
final defense:

After the first semester,
midterm milestones as
determined by committee:

I have read and understood the attached thesis policy. *Keep a copy for your records.*

Faculty Advisor's signature:

Student's signature:

Senior Thesis Policy

An alternative to senior capstone courses is the Senior Thesis. The thesis should be roughly equivalent to a Master's Thesis in scope. That is, a Senior Thesis should be a substantial body of work worthy of its 8 credit hours. The thesis may be research, expository, critical, or creative work but must be original in subject matter, organization, or view.

The decision to pursue a Senior Thesis should not be made at the last minute. An interested student should begin discussions with an advisor and committee members in the semester or summer before enrolling for CSCI 4950 Senior Thesis.

Requirements

A thesis student must have a GPA not lower than 3.0 and must have satisfied all Senior Capstone prerequisites. Senior Thesis is open only to seniors.

Credit Hours and Timing

The thesis must total 8 credit hours to be completed over the course of one year. At least 2 credit hours and not more than 4 credit hours may be taken in any one semester or summer.

Advisor and Committee

The student must find a faculty advisor willing to guide the student through completion of the thesis. The thesis advisor must be a member of the Computer Science faculty. The student and thesis advisor must choose a committee of three CU faculty members, including the thesis advisor.

Enrollment

Senior Thesis is a controlled enrollment course. To enroll in the course, the student must complete the *Senior Thesis Course Enrollment* form each semester. The form lists the names of the thesis advisor and committee members, the thesis topic, the number of credit hours being requested for the semester, the date of the midterm proposal defense (for the first semester), and the date of the semester final exam, among other things.

The form must be signed by the thesis advisor and delivered to the student's academic advisor prior to the second week of each semester of Senior Thesis. Upon receipt of the completed enrollment form, the academic advisor will enroll the student into the appropriate section of CSCI 4950 Senior Thesis.

Concurrent BS/MS Students

The Senior Thesis may not be used in place of the Master's Thesis.

Student initials:

Milestones

First Semester Midterm

The student must successfully defend a research proposal before the faculty committee by midterm of the first semester. A *First Semester Midterm Proposal Report* must be completed by the thesis advisor and delivered to the student's academic advisor during the ninth week of the first semester.

First Semester Final

The student must successfully defend a progress report and a research plan for the second semester by the end of the first semester. This defense is open to the public but must be attended by the faculty committee, one faculty representative of the Undergraduate Committee, and one graduate student working in an area related to the thesis topic. This expanded committee will make a judgement as to whether or not the student is on track to complete the proposed work and will complete the *First Semester Final Report*. The defense must take place and the thesis advisor must deliver this report to the student's academic advisor prior to the last day of finals for the semester. The thesis advisor will also assign a grade. The student must be on track for success and must receive a grade of at least B- for the first semester's work to proceed to the second semester. If either of these criteria is not met, the credit hours completed do not count toward completion of the thesis. (They count only as free elective or upper division Computer Science elective credit.)

Subsequent Semester(s)

At the expanded committee's discretion, the student may need to meet intermediate milestones.

Last Semester Final

The student must defend the thesis before the committee of three faculty members. That committee will decide whether the student has completed a satisfactory thesis.

The student must deliver the completed thesis to the committee no later than one week before the defense date, which must be no later than the last day of finals for the semester.

Paperwork Deadlines

Course Enrollment Form: second week of every semester or summer

First Semester Midterm Proposal Report: ninth week of first semester

First Semester Final Report: last day of finals in first semester

Final Report: last day of finals in last semester

Student initials