Content 3(M.S. Degree) and Content 4 (Ph.D. Degree) Q&A

1. What grade must be earned for courses counting towards the Computer Science M.S. degree?
   Answer: A grade of B or better must be earned.

2. What graduate concentrations are offered for the M.S. in Computer Science?

   Answer: Bioinformatics, Security and Privacy, and the core program.

3. What are the available options for completing the M.S. degree?

   Answer: Thesis, project, or course-only options are available.

4. What is required for students in the Security and Privacy concentration?

   Answer: They are required to complete a project.

5. Can Bioinformatics and core concentration students choose the project option?

   Answer: Yes, students in these concentrations can choose thesis, project, or course-only options.

6. Who must supervise M.S. students pursuing the project option?

   Answer: A CS faculty advisor must supervise the project.

7. What is the course composition for the project option in the M.S. program?

   Answer: Max of 3 6000-level courses, at least 4 8000-level courses, and 4 credits of MS Project (CSc 8930).

8. What is the course composition for the thesis option in the M.S. program?

   Answer: Max of 2 6000-level courses, at least 4 8000-level courses, and 6 credits of Thesis (CSc 8999).

9. What is the course composition for the course-only option in the M.S. program?

Answer: Max of 4 6000-level courses, at least 5 8000-level courses, and 1 credit of CSc 8901.

10. When should M.S. students find an advisor if they choose the thesis or project option?

    Answer: In the first year, M.S. students should identify an advisor by participating in seminars like CS 8900/9900.

11. What is the procedure for changing concentrations in the M.S. program?

    Answer: Submit a request with a justification, like a project relevant to another concentration, using the official form.

12. What is the deadline for M.S. students to request a course transfer?

    Answer: M.S. students must submit the transfer request within their first semester.

13. Can M.S. students transfer credits from another institution?

    Answer: Yes, but only up to 6 credits with approval.

14. Are there limits on the number of 6000-level courses M.S. students can take?

    Answer: Yes, each option limits the number of 6000-level courses: 2 for thesis, 3 for project, and 4 for course-only.

15. Where can M.S. students find information about degree requirements and course options?

    Answer: The department website and GSU course catalog.

16. Can M.S. students switch advisors?

    Answer: Yes, students may change advisors after discussing with their current advisor and completing obligations.

17. What must students complete in the course-only option for the M.S. program?

    Answer: They must complete CSc 8901 (Perspectives in Computing) for 1 credit.

18. How is the M.S. in Data Science and Analytics program structured?

    Answer: It includes a Big Data and Machine Learning (BDML) concentration.

19. Is the M.S. program available as a dual B.S./M.S. degree?

    Answer: Yes, students can pursue a dual B.S./M.S. degree.

20. How many credits are required for an M.S. degree with the project option?

    Answer: At least 4 credits of MS Project CSc 8930 are required.

21. How many 8000-level courses are required for the thesis option?

    Answer: A minimum of 4 8000-level courses is required.

22. What are the foundational course requirements for incoming M.S. students?

    Answer: Incoming students must complete foundation courses if they lack the background knowledge expected by the program.

23. How should M.S. students choose a research advisor?

    Answer: By attending seminars, discussing with faculty, and identifying research interests that align with faculty expertise.

24. What are the evaluation criteria for M.S. students in the project or thesis option?

    Answer: The project or thesis must meet quality standards set by the department and advisor.

25. How often should M.S. students check the degree catalog information?

    Answer: Frequently, as requirements and offerings may change.

26. What is the minimum grade required for courses counting towards the Ph.D. degree?

    Answer: A minimum grade of B is required.

27. What is the Ph.D. annual review process?

    Answer: It evaluates students on GPA, milestones, publications, teaching effectiveness, and research progress.

28. How many years of department funding are Ph.D. students eligible for?

Answer: Up to 5 years, contingent on satisfactory progress.

29. What is the Ph.D. Qualifier?

    Answer: It is an examination to assess the student's potential to conduct doctoral-level research.

30. What are the two parts of the Ph.D. Qualifier?

Answer: The Curriculum Requirement and the Research Examination.

31. What is the curriculum requirement for the Ph.D. Qualifier?

    Answer: Students must complete 3 courses in two core areas (Theories and Systems) with at least two A's and one B.

32. What is assessed in the Research Examination for the Ph.D. Qualifier?

    Answer: Students' ability to read and critique research papers, formulate problems, and communicate effectively.

33. How many attempts are allowed for the Ph.D. Qualifier?

    Answer: Students can make two attempts.

34. What is the timeline for completing the Ph.D. Qualifier?

    Answer: It should be completed by the end of the third semester.

35. Who administers the Ph.D. Qualifier?

    Answer: A committee of 3 faculty members from the student's chosen research area.

36. Can Ph.D. students switch research advisors?

    Answer: Yes, but they must complete existing obligations with the current advisor and notify all relevant parties.

37. What are the research areas available for the Ph.D. Research Examination?

    Answer: Areas include Artificial Intelligence, Security, Data Mining, Software Engineering, and more.

38. How should Ph.D. students prepare for the research examination?

    Answer: By studying two research papers assigned by their committee and preparing a written and oral defense.

39. When are Ph.D. qualifiers administered?

    Answer: The last week of January (Spring) and the last week of August (Fall).

40. What is the advisor's role in the annual Ph.D. review?

    Answer: The advisor evaluates the student's research performance, teaching duties, and academic progress.

41. What must Ph.D. students achieve to obtain an M.S. degree along the way?

    Answer: They must pass the qualifier, complete foundation courses, publish a paper, complete 7 courses, and finish CSc 9900.

42. What is the process for Ph.D. students to apply for an M.S. degree along the way?

    Answer: They must apply via PAWS after meeting all requirements.

43. What criteria are considered in the annual Ph.D. performance review?

    Answer: GPA, degree milestones, research publications, teaching effectiveness, and overall progress.

44. What happens if a Ph.D. student fails the research examination?

    Answer: The student may attempt it again with a new committee member after receiving feedback.

45. Can Ph.D. students receive travel support for conferences?

    Answer: Yes, typically through their research advisor, although department funding may be available in specific cases.

46. What must Ph.D. students submit for conference travel reimbursement?

    Answer: They must submit a travel authorization form before travel and travel expenses afterward.

47. Are Ph.D. students required to publish research papers?

    Answer: Yes, Ph.D. students must publish papers as part of their progress and qualification for degree completion.

48. How does a Ph.D. student's research advisor get assigned?

    Answer: Students find advisors through faculty preferences and project needs, often in the first semester.

49. What happens if a Ph.D. student's research progress is unsatisfactory?

    Answer: Funding may be terminated, and the student may face delays in graduation.

50. What are the steps for a Ph.D. student to register for the qualifier?

    Answer: They must register online, work with the committee to schedule the exam, and submit the qualifier report one week in advance.