The Ph.D. program in Computer Science offers an opportunity for exceptional students to pursue substantial research in the computer sciences and related areas including Information Systems, Computer Graphics, Networking and Artificial Intelligence.

To earn a Ph.D. degree, a student must demonstrate breadth of knowledge in at least three research areas and significant depth in a chosen dissertation area. In addition, the student must conceive, write and defend a Ph.D. dissertation representing a significant and original contribution to current academic research as demonstrated by a public dissertation defense and publication in established peer-reviewed academic conferences and/or journals.

About the Program...

Getting Started...

In order to be considered for admission to the doctoral program, prospective students must:

- Submit a completed application form. Online applications are accessible at www.cti.depaul.edu/admissions.
- Submit official academic records. Applicants should hold a master’s degree in Computer Science or an allied field, however, exceptional candidates who have yet to complete a master’s degree may also be considered.
- Submit three letters of recommendation.
- Submit a written statement describing any academic accomplishments, professional/personal goals and research interests.
- Submit an official score report of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general examination.
- Submit a TOEFL score report (international applicants) that demonstrates an English proficiency with a minimum score of 580 (paper exam) or 213 (computerized exam).
Admission

Doctoral candidates for the CTI program are selected on a competitive basis by a Ph.D. Admissions committee. The faculty committee weighs each application on the basis of scholastics, merit, experience, and overall potential.

Because CTI admits only a limited number of students to the Ph.D. program, meeting the admission standards does not guarantee acceptance. Therefore, applications and supplemental materials should be well prepared and delivered in advance of posted deadlines. Take the extra effort to make your application submission notable. It should be a polished reflection of your credentials and promise as a Ph.D. candidate.

Deadlines

The Ph.D. Admissions committee meets twice per year to make candidate selections.

Ph.D. students begin their studies in either a Fall or Winter academic quarter.

Be mindful of the following dates when submitting applications and supporting material:

- October 1st for Winter
- January 15 for Fall
Program Structure

The Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science degree at DePaul University follows three phases, which may overlap in time:

**Inquiry Phase:**
Coursework, initial research projects and successful completion of three Breadth Examinations.

**Research Phase:**
Focused research leading to successful completion of a Dissertation Proposal. Upon completion of all requirements, the student is admitted to Candidacy.

**Candidacy Phase:**
Further research, writing and defense of the Ph.D. dissertation. Ph.D. dissertations in Computer Science are typically 100 to 300 pages in length and must represent a significant and original body of work.

For details about each phase of the Ph.D. degree program, please visit the CTI website.

http://www.cti.depaul.edu/programs/PHDinCS.asp
The following are a few helpful hints to create the best possible portfolio for admission.

- **Write an Outstanding Letter of Intent/Personal Statement.**

  The letter of intent is your primary opportunity to personalize your application and market yourself. Craft your letter thoughtfully and highlight unambiguously your aspirations, skills, and personal strengths.

  ◦ Be specific about your interests in technology and describe why a career in this field appeals to you.
  ◦ Detail explicitly your strengths and skills.
  ◦ Discuss your long-term career goals and aspirations.
  ◦ Relate relevant industry experience, academic or professional honors and achievements, and published work.
  ◦ Mention a specific faculty member with whom you might like to work (and why).
  ◦ Avoid being too chatty and remember to carefully proofread your statement.

- **Pinpoint a dominant area of research interest.**

  One of the goals of the Ph.D. Admissions committee is to match doctoral candidates with faculty advisors that have similar research interests. Indicating a single, dominant area of interest under the umbrella of Information Technology can help the committee better assess how your talents and future goals will fit into the over-arching CTI program.

  Browsing the CTI faculty pages available at [www.cti.depaul.edu/people/](http://www.cti.depaul.edu/people/) can help you identify a potential faculty advisor with whom you might like to work. Consider establishing contact via email or by scheduling a face-to-face meeting.

- **Clearly specify desires for part-time versus full-time study.**

In keeping with the CTI philosophy of blending academic and professional pursuits, full-time employed students will be considered for admission as part-time doctoral students. Doctoral study requires a substantial time commitment and all applicants should take this into consideration.

- **Clearly specify your wish to compete for CTI funding.**

Departmental funding may be limited and is granted competitively. Any applicant may compete for funding, but only full-time students will be considered for substantial financial aid stipends. In addition, these awards are only available for students matriculating in the Fall quarter. If you wish to be considered, be sure to indicate this in your personal statement and your application for admission.

You should also inform the committee if you have the ability to self-support your Ph.D. study and are open to a non-funded acceptance. Self-supporting students always have the option of competing for a graduate fellowship or assistantship at a later date during their Ph.D. career.

For details about stipends and assistantships, please refer to the CTI website at

http://www.cti.depaul.edu/advising/grad_scholarships.asp.
Follow up with appropriate parties to ensure academic transcripts, letters of recommendation and TOEFL and GRE score reports have been issued.

Applicants should be proactive in ensuring that any applicable documents are ordered and sent to the admissions office in a timely fashion. Notices from CTI admissions will be sent to applicants whenever new documents are received. Following up on missing items will prevent missing the deadlines for the academic term you are seeking and can help ensure your file receives audience with the Ph.D. committee. In addition, an online status check is also available on the CTI website.

*Note: Incomplete files will NOT be considered.*

Ensure that any international documentation meets DePaul University requirements.

The International Admissions office at DePaul University will evaluate official records of college-level credits and degrees free of charge.

In general, copies must be attested by UNIVERSITY officials such as the Registrar, Controller of Exams, Rector, or Office of Teaching Affairs. Additionally, we require official mark sheets for each exam attempt from schools in India and Pakistan. Original academic records may be submitted and returned after an admissions decision has been made.

International applicants should supply:

- Official transcripts, exam results, or mark sheets in the original language along with English translations.
- Official copies of the degree certificates and diplomas earned in the original language along with English translations.

Please note that signatures or attestations from affiliate colleges, secretaries, department heads, or principals are not
Once CTI receives your international records, general turnaround time for processing can be between two or three weeks so plan accordingly. If you have questions regarding the documents required for a specific country, please contact the Admissions office at ctiadmissions@cti.depaul.edu.

Submitting improperly attested or incomplete records can impede the preparation of your file for committee review. Please note that incomplete files will NOT be considered.

- **Consider using an academic evaluator for international records.**

Due to the continued growth in international applicants, we have been unable to guarantee a specific time period for international credential evaluation. These are completed on a rolling basis as they are received. If you apply before the Ph.D. application deadlines and your documents are complete and satisfactory, timing should not be an issue.

However, you can also expedite the processing of international transcripts by utilizing an academic evaluator such as Educational Credential Evaluators (www.ece.org), World Education Services (www.wes.org) or International Education Research Foundation (www.ierf.org).

There are some advantages to this.

◊ The evaluation agency promises to complete processing in a specific period of time.
◊ The evaluation is sent to you and to us, allowing you to see what we see.
◊ This can help expedite the preparation of your file for committee review.

Evaluators such as these do charge fees starting at about US$75 and often require that you submit a separate application form for their service. Remember to request an *academic* evaluation. Evaluations for professional licensure, etc. are not accepted in lieu of those done for academic purposes.
Things to Consider

The essence of a Ph.D. can be summarized in a single word: research. One must explore, investigate, and contemplate. For Computer Scientists, research means searching to uncover the principles that underlie digital computation and communication. Researchers look for new abstractions, new approaches, new algorithms, new principles, or new mechanisms.

Undertaking a Ph.D. is a big step. Honestly assess your own capabilities and what lies ahead. The following questions may be of help.

**Time:** Are you prepared to tackle a project larger than any you have undertaken before? You must commit to multiple years of hard work.

**Creativity:** Research discoveries often arise when one looks at old facts in a new way. Do you shine when solving problems?

**Academic Performance:** In your college and graduate courses, were you closer to the top of your class or the bottom? How well did you do on the GRE or other standardized tests?

**Intense curiosity:** Have you always been compelled to understand the world around you and to find out how things work? A natural curiosity makes research easier.

**Adaptability:** Many students find Ph.D. study unexpectedly different than course work. Can you adapt to new ways of thinking? Can you tolerate searching for answers even when no one knows the precise questions?

**Self-motivation:** In a Ph.D. program, work is not divided neatly into separate courses, professors do not partition tasks into little assignments, and students often do not receive a grade for each small step. Are you self-motivated enough to keep working toward a goal without day-to-day encouragement?

**Maturity:** Ph.D. study has less structure than traditional classes. You will have more freedom to set your own goals, determine your daily schedule, and follow interesting ideas. Are you prepared to accept the responsibility that accompanies this level of autonomy? Your success in Ph.D. research depends on it.