

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISOR/CO-ADVISOR

Policy: Co-advisors for Computer Science PhD Students working with Faculty Outside of Computer Science

Computer Science (CS) graduate students have a wide range of research choices available to them, including working on a computer science-related program in a different department, with a research advisor who is not a member of the Computer Science Department. Students working with advisors outside CS must have a co-advisor who is a faculty member in the CS Department. A co-advisor serves two main roles: (i) acting as an official liaison for the student to the CS Department and (ii) insuring that the student's dissertation has a computer science component that is sufficient to allowing granting of a PhD in CS.

The co-advisor also serves as the student's contact to the department for any academic issues that would be more appropriately dealt with by CS, rather than a faculty member in another department. Students should select the co-advisor as soon as he/she is no longer on rotation and has decided on a research program with an advisor in a department other than CS.

Student should submit a one-page dissertation proposal on his/her research to the CS co-advisor. The proposal should have been reviewed, approved and signed by the student's research advisor and co-advisor.

Student is required to meet with his/her co-advisor on a yearly basis, although more frequent meetings are encouraged. During that annual meeting, the student should submit a one-page progress report on research for co-advisor approval and signature. This should be sent to the PhD student services office to put on student file.