Ph.D. in Computing and Information Sciences Semester Curriculum

This Ph.D. degree requires 60 semester credits, including 1) 8 credits of foundational courses, 2) 9 credits of intradisciplinary computing courses specifically in the Interaction, Informatics, and Infrastructure subareas, and 3) 43 credits from research-related elective courses and dissertation & research.

A. Course Credits (29-38):

- **Foundation courses:** required, unless waived because of prior background
  - CISC-810 Research Foundations (3 credits)
  - CISC-820 Quantitative Foundations (3 credits)
  - CISC-807 Teaching Skills Workshop (2 credits)
  - CISC-896 Colloquium in Computing and Information Sciences (0 credit, 4 courses required)
- **I-courses:** required, one each from the three clusters
  - Infrastructure cluster (3 credits)
  - Interaction cluster (3 credits)
  - Informatics cluster (3 credits)
- **Electives:** 4-7 courses, depending on needs (12 -21 credits)

- **Notes about course transfer:**
  - After passing the RPA, a student can submit up to 9 credits of prior graduate courses from the previous graduate study for their advisor and the Ph.D. director's approval. First-year Ph.D. students may request "pre-approval" pending successful completion of the RPA.
  - Request process: The student will email the following to the Ph.D. director for approval
    1. List of the intended transferring-in course(s), including the course name, credits, grade, and course syllabus. We typically only consider courses with a B+ or above.
    2. For each transferring-in course(s), list side-by-side the corresponding RIT course(s) for substitution.
    3. The official transcript from the student's prior college should be sent to the RIT Registrar's office, registrar@rit.edu.

B. Dissertation Credits (22-31): Varying, depending on the course credits

C. Assessments:

1. **Research Potential Assessment (qualifying exam)**
   - At the end of the first year for full-time students, and no later than the end of the second year for part-time students
   - Three components: grades, advisor's evaluation, and research paper & presentation
2. **Doctoral proposal (admission to candidacy)**
   - No later than 24 months after the research potential assessment
   - Written proposal and public defense
3. **Dissertation**
   - Written dissertation and public defense
   - One external reader and an independent review
4. **Publication requirement**
   - At least one paper before graduation
   - Specific requirements as outlined in the GCCIS program *Publication Requirement Policy*

Created in December 2012
Updated in April 2025