

## **Graduate Program Description**

### **Jodrey School of Computer Science, Acadia University, 2008**

The following lists some program requirements for MSc students. For complete information, in particular course description, see the graduate calendar.

#### **1) Program Requirements**

##### **a) Supervision**

As a part of the admission process, you will have an initial supervisor (typically, a Graduate Chair). You must have a supervisor at all times, but may later select another supervisor provided that you fill in the appropriate form (also available from the School of Computer Science), and have this form signed by the School's Graduate Chair.

If you plan to enter the co-op program or be away for an extended period of time, you must discuss it with your supervisor. In the case of an extended absence you may have to change your supervisor.

##### **b) Courses**

Graduate students cannot register for *any* courses unless they obtained a written signature of the Graduate Chair.

Graduate students requiring undergraduate makeup courses need to complete these courses by the end of the first year (unless there is a scheduling conflict, in which case they have to follow the advice provided by the supervisor and the graduate coordinator). In some instances students may be given more time to complete the undergraduate requirements. However, all undergraduate and graduate level courses must be completed by the end of the second year with a grade of B- or better. Until all the course requirements are satisfied, graduate students must take at least four credit courses per year (excluding Comp 5923).

##### **c) Progress Report**

It is mandatory for all graduate students to fill in a progress report at the end of each term, have it signed by the supervisor, and submitted to the Graduate Chair for evaluation (pass or fail). If you fail two consecutive progress reports, you may be asked to withdraw from the program.

##### **d) Seminars**

It is mandatory to attend all the School's seminars.

##### **e) Defenses**

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all Computer Science graduate student defenses to help them to prepare for their own defense.

## 2) Guidelines

a) When faculty members accept the supervision of graduate students, they will assist students in selecting courses (both, make-up and graduate), choosing research topics, defining their theses, advising during the process of collecting research data, and finally creating results (such as programs, research papers) needed for the successful thesis.

b) During the process of writing the thesis, supervisors will tell students approximately how long it will be before written work, such as drafts of chapters, can be returned with comments; and they will be making suggestions for rewriting and improving the draft. As a result, students will have a clear understanding of what is expected in thesis writing (expected length, acceptable methodology, validity of topic) and assessing progress as the thesis is being written.

c) Students should give serious and considered attention to advice provided by the Graduate Chair and the supervisor concerning their course of studies, any courses they take, Co-op work terms, and writing and modifying (when necessary) their thesis.

### d) Program Timeline

The completion times given below are based on full-time study:

i) All degree requirements, including the thesis defense, will normally be completed within 20 months of full-time study.

ii) Course requirements should be completed as early in the program as possible.

iii) By no later than the beginning of the final year, the student should have selected the topic for the thesis (in consultation with your supervisor). The remainder of the final year should be spent on research on this topic, with the final version of the thesis ready early in the second term of the final year.