Title: Ph.D. in Computing
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Computing
CIP Code: 11.0101

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPUTING

The interdisciplinary Doctor of Philosophy degree in Computing integrates coursework and research projects from three related disciplines: computer science, information systems, and information technology. The program emphasizes advanced discovery and the development of solutions to research-focused problems in the areas of cyber assurance, risk assessment, forensics, and data analytics. Ph.D. graduates are eligible for research positions in academia, industry, and government.

The Ph.D. degree is awarded to candidates who have demonstrated a capacity for original research, have made a meaningful contribution to knowledge in the computing discipline, and have successfully defended a dissertation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Applicants are normally admitted in the fall semester and are encouraged to complete the admissions application prior to February 1. In addition to the general admission requirements of the USA Graduate School, admission requirements for the Computing Ph.D. program are:

1. A statement of purpose indicating the student's personal goals and research interests. Because prospective students are matched with a faculty mentor, competitive applications align with the research areas of School of Computing graduate faculty.
2. Three letters of recommendation from persons able to speak directly to the applicant's ability to engage in advanced discovery and contribute new knowledge to the discipline.
3. Curriculum vita
4. An official transcript from each college or university attended.
5. A baccalaureate or graduate degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Technology or a closely related field.
6. An undergraduate minimum gpa of 3.3 overall or a graduate minimum gpa of 3.5 overall (4 point scale).
7. Official scores for the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) including the AW portion.
8. For international students, an official TOEFL or IELTS score.
9. A completed application for admission to the Graduate School.

Admission is competitive and the decision is based on a review of all submitted admission materials. A personal interview may be requested. Applicants are encouraged to submitted samples of prior work. Requests for application forms should be addressed to… or downloaded at… All admissions materials should be sent to the Office of Admissions, 2500 Meisler Hall,

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the Ph.D. in Computing, a minimum of 72 semester hours of approved graduate credit is required and the following program of study must be completed with a grade of "B" or better in all course work.

Required Course Work (18 hours)

CSC 612	Cybersecurity	3
CSC 626	Tools for Analyzing Big Data	3
ISC 673	Digital Investigations – Theory and Practice	3
ISC 686	Advanced Topics in Risk Analysis	3
ISC 629	Computing Ecosystems	3
ISC 675	Advanced Topics in Information Systems	3

Electives (24 hours)

Student will complete 24 semester hours of 500-level or higher approved graduate coursework. A maximum of 12 semester hours of CIS 694 Directed Study may be counted towards fulfilling the electives requirement.

Dissertation (30 hours)

A primary educational objective of the Ph.D. program is for students to develop the ability to conduct advanced research and contribute new knowledge to the discipline. To that end, the student will complete 30 hours of CIS 799 Dissertation.

Academic Standards

Student must maintain a cumulative 3.0 gpa in order to be in good standing. Failure to maintain a cumulative 3.0 gpa will result in the student being placed on academic probation. The School of Computing Director of Graduate Programs may recommend dismissal of a student who does not maintain good academic standing or is not making sufficient progress.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Graduate assistantships are available annually on a competitive basis. The application deadline is July 1. Information regarding assistantships is available on the School of Computing website.

COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS

Doctoral students must pass a comprehensive written and oral examination. The written content of the examination will be determined by the comprehensive examination committee. Normally the written component is based on the student's coursework. The oral component consists of an oral defense of the student's proposed research project. Failure to pass the comprehensive examination within three attempts will result in dismissal from the program.

CANDIDACY

A doctoral student is admitted to candidacy upon successful completion of a comprehensive examination. Candidacy indicates the student has completed preliminary coursework and research preparation and is eligible to begin the dissertation research project.

DISSERTATION HOURS AND DEFENSE

Doctoral candidacy is required to enroll in CIS 799 Dissertation. While only 30 hours of CIS 799 may be counted toward the degree, a student must continuously enroll in at least 1 credit hour of dissertation during the fall and spring semesters until the dissertation is successfully defended. Failure to enroll continuously without the written approval of the Director of the Graduate program may lead to dismissal from the program.

The final oral defense is scheduled after the dissertation study has been completed and prepared in written form. Revisions to the written dissertation may be required for final approval by the dissertation committee and as a result of a review by the Graduate School.

TRANSFER CREDIT

A maximum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit earned at an approved graduate school may be counted toward the Ph.D. program. Transfer credit may be approved after the completion of nine (9) semester hours of credit at the University of South Alabama. Transfer credit must be approved by the School of Computing Director of Graduate programs with the recommendation of the student's advisor.

TIME LIMIT

After reaching candidacy, a student has a maximum of 3 years to complete the dissertation. A student may apply to the Director of Graduate programs for an extension to complete the degree.

SAMPLE PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Fall 1		Spring 1	
ISC 673	3	ISC 686	3
CSC 612	3	MGT 615	3
CSC 626	3	ISC ???	3
CIS 694	3	CIS 694	3
	12		12
Fall 2		**Spring 2**	
CIS 694	3	CIS 799	3
CIS 694	3	CIS 799	3
Elective	3	CIS 799	3
Elective	3	CIS 799	3
	12		12
Fall 3		**Spring 3**	
Elective	3	Elective	3
CIS 799	3	CIS 799	3
CIS 799	3	CIS 799	3
CIS 799	3	CIS 799	3
	12		12