About the Major

The Ph.D. in Computer Science program combines traditional and online instruction to give professionals the opportunity to pursue graduate study while continuing to work in their current positions. The program is especially well suited to those in industry, education, or government who are involved with one of the many areas of computer science and information technology. It provides research-oriented professionals with knowledge in the major areas of computer science the ability to develop creative solutions to substantive real-world problems.

Program Format

This program is offered as an executive format and will require students to attend four cluster sessions per year, held quarterly over an extended weekend (Friday and Saturday) at the university. The cluster sessions bring together students and faculty for participation in classes, seminars, and dissertation counseling, and provide ample opportunity for student-faculty and student-student interaction. Between cluster sessions, students work on course assignments and research, and participate in online activities that facilitate frequent interaction with the faculty and with other students.

Career Opportunities

- College/University Faculty
- Computer Scientist
- Research & Development
- Senior Software Engineer
The program requires at least 64 credit hours, of which 32 are for courses and at least 32 are for research and dissertation.

**Required Courses** (four credits each) (select eight of these)
- CISD 700  Theory and Principles of Programming
- CISD 730  Operating Systems
- CISD 740  Data Communications and Computer Networking
- CISD 750  Database Management Systems
- CISD 760  Artificial Intelligence
- CISD 770  Software Engineering
- CISD 792  Computer Graphics
- CISD 794  Knowledge Discovery in Databases
- ISEC 730  Network Security & Cryptography

**Research Registrations**
Students are required to complete at least two sections (four credits each) of CISD 885, Doctoral Research, before entering candidacy. Students must register for the course with a particular faculty member as directed in the course description. Students are further advised to wait for the second year of study before registering for Doctoral Research. Students will repeat Doctoral Research until securing a dissertation idea approved by the instructor and two faculty readers.

**Dissertation Registrations**
Students must take three consecutive registrations (eight credits each) for CISD 901, Doctoral Dissertation, to total the 24 credits of dissertation required. Students whose dissertations are not completed within three registrations (one year) continue to register for CISD 920 Continuing Dissertation (four credits) each term until the dissertation is complete.

**Notice of Nondiscrimination and Accreditation**
Nova Southeastern University admits students of any race, color, sex, age, nondisqualifying disability, religion or creed, sexual orientation, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

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**For further information**

- Visit the Office of Admissions online at www.scis.nova.edu or email scisinfo@nova.edu.
- Call the Office of Admissions at 954-262-2001 or 800-986-2247, ext. 22001
- Visit our campus at 3301 College Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33314
- Apply Online at www.scis.nova.edu/applyonline