

Getting Started in the UW CSE Department

by Various and Sun-Dried Grad Students

Autumn 2004

This document is designed to provide a brief overview of Life, the University and Everything as it applies to the graduate program in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington (a.k.a. “U Dub”). Some of the information here will be immediately useful, some you will need to know later on in your graduate career, and some will make you wonder why we even bothered to include it. Everything here is here because one of us wished we knew about it sooner without having to do so much work to find out.

Always remember that one of the best sources of answers to your questions about being a grad student will be your fellow grads. We were all once first years ourselves (really, honest, except for a couple of us). Ask your officemates; talk to advisors; don’t be afraid to speak up and ask questions. Grad school is not a competition; we’re all happy to help out when we can.

Good luck, have fun and whatever you do, don’t panic!

Lastly, like any other live document, pieces will get outdated. Should you find any information to be invalid, please email benson1@cs explaining what was wrong and hopefully the document will be updated quickly.

[Last update: September 24, 2004]

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1 Things to get done ASAP

1.1 Getting your student ID

You should get your student ID Card as soon as possible. They can be obtained in the Student ID Center, Room 225 Schmitz Hall. Once you register for classes, you should receive an enrollment validation sticker with your registration confirmation. Make sure to attach this sticker to your ID card.

1.2 Creating a UW NetID

Your UW NetID is your **personal identification** for UW network and computing services.

– C&C web page

The UW NetID (also known as a C&C, or Computing & Communications, account) is separate from your CSE department account. It provides email (“@u.washington.edu”) and web space, among other things. Visit <https://uwnetid.washington.edu/newid/> to create a UW NetID. More information on C&C computing services is available at <http://www.washington.edu/computing/>

You can also use your UW NetID for the University dialup modem pool.

MyUW is a personalized portal to UW web-based services. It includes links to your class schedule, grades, registration, tuition statements, Husky card account, as well as a lot of generic information. You can log in to MyUW with your UW NetID at <http://myuw.washington.edu/>

1.3 Registering for classes

Do it the right way.

– Hank Levy

The rule of thumb is to register for 10 credits your first year, and 12 credits in following years. During the first year, most students take two quals courses a quarter. You should always sign up for CSE 519 and CSE 520. These are once a week research seminars. You don’t actually have to go to talks you are not interested in, but you’ll miss out on free cookies if you don’t. You should also sign up for a couple of 590’s in areas you think you might be interested in. The 590’s are variable credit, so find out from the professor/organizer what amount of work will be expected for what amount of credit. If you are TA’ing, you should also sign up for 590IT. This is a one hour course designed to help you be a better TA and expose you to issues of interest to instructors.

Be wary of taking two project courses in the same quarter. You'll burn out but good. A similar warning goes for CSE 531, *Automata, Computability and Complexity*. This is not a project course, but in recent history it has consumed as much or more time (for the non-theoretically inclined) as a project course.

Computer theory here is not the same as computer theory in an average computer science department. I thought I knew computer theory until I came here! For those who are transferring from a lesser school: *Beware!* There be daemons here.

– anonymous grad student

Courses can be taken for graded credit, credit/no-credit, and audit. Generally, students take their required quals courses for credit, and then switch to CR/NC for the courses taken after quals. However, two post-quals courses must be taken for a grade.

Never hesitate to ask around about courses and instructors before you register.

To register for courses, you'll need to go to MyUW at <http://myuw.washington.edu/>. They will ask you if you want to be a part of the associated students of UW, which is free and allows you to vote for student representatives. You can also donate \$2-3 to a couple of student-interest groups. You will probably want to have your registration info mailed to your local address.

Supported students who are US-citizens will automatically have the standard TA/RA insurance and should select "No insurance" for the insurance option. Non-US citizens who are supported should sign up for insurance, and the UW insurance will automatically be cancelled when you enroll for graduate student insurance (GAIP).

When signing up for classes, you will need to know the SLN (e.g. 2512) of each class you want to register for. This number has nothing to do with the actual course number (e.g. CSE519). You shouldn't sign up for courses marked CSEP, because these are for professional masters students, not students in the regular grad program. The quarterly schedule at <http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat/cse.html> has these numbers.

Registration must be done sometime near the end of September to avoid late fees. Courses can be added and dropped through the first week without incurring fees.

Even if you are supported and your tuition is waved, there will still be a quarterly fee you need to pay. Once you get your tuition statement, you can pay your fee by mail or in the Student Fiscal Services Office, Room 129 Schmitz Hall. Tuition and fees for autumn quarter sometime in mid-October

Note that it is not at all uncommon for the billing department to send out bills before the tuition waivers are applied. Don't panic. They will generally send out corrected bills later on, but you shouldn't count on it. You can check your statement using MyUW,¹ but you'll need to set up your UW NetID first.

¹<http://myuw.washington.edu/>

1.4 Getting your U-PASS (or not getting your U-PASS)

The U-PASS is a sticker that goes on your student ID. In addition to getting you discounts at some local businesses, it gets you unlimited bus usage for the quarter (which is generally rather useful).² To get the U-PASS, you need to first get your student ID and register for classes. Once you register, they will automatically send you a U-PASS sticker with your registration confirmation. The cost of the U-PASS is \$37 (as of Summer 2004) for the quarter. If you want it, attach the sticker to the indicated place on your student ID card. If you do not want it, you must follow the instructions for returning it to the school. You will automatically be charged \$37 if you do not return the U-PASS sticker.

If you buy a parking permit, your U-PASS is free.³ Just ignore the \$37 charge on your tuition statement and after a while, the parking office will make the charge disappear, just like magic.

1.5 TA Sign-Up

If you are not going to TA fall quarter, ignore this section. If you are going to TA this quarter, take a look at what classes are offered, think about what professors you want to work with, figure out what your class schedule will be. Now you are ready to sign up for which classes you prefer to TA. Do this at the TA home page <http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/ta-home/>. Click on “TA Sign-up” to sign-up. The TA Interface is only open for short periods announced each quarter when TA slots are being filled. Richard Ladner, the TA coordinator, will let you know what your final assignment is.

1.6 Finding your office

There are desks and computers for every grad student. Lindsay should let you know what office you are assigned to. Once you know what office you are in, you should stop by and meet your office representative (another of the students in the office). The earlier you stop by your office, the better choice you will have among desks going to first year students.

Your office mates are a great resource. Talk to them! Ask stupid questions.

²To find out about all the benefits of a U-PASS, check out <http://www.washington.edu/upass/>.

³Parking permits are around \$200 per quarter for on-campus parking (Parking is cheaper in the UW housing lots if you live in UW housing). You can find information about residential and commuter parking at <http://www.washington.edu/admin/parking/>.

1.7 Meet with your temporary advisor

You have been assigned a temporary advisor. Once you get started on your quals project, you can change this advisor, but in the meantime they will make sure you are on track and help you along. You should try to meet with them soon to get to know each other and to talk about your plans for the quarter, year, life.

1.8 Living in Washington legally

Washington does things in more complex ways than other states. There isn't the one stop shopping convenience of a DMV like in California. Instead, there are different departments for different things.

You should register your vehicle within 30 days of arriving here. For title and registration, check out <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vs/tr-new.htm>. The Vehicle Licensing center nearest the the UW is University License Agency, 5615 Roosevelt Way NE, open Tues-Fri 9 am to 5 pm, phone: 206-522-4090. However, before you go there, you must have an emissions test done if you have a car from an odd model year between 1977 and 1995, or your model year is 1996. (Yes, even if you just had an emissions test in another state.) Also, if your car has been wrecked or salvaged, it may have to be inspected by the state patrol (see <http://www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/vinspect.htm>)

The nearest emissions place to UW is 12040 Aurora Ave N., 206-362-5173, open Tuesday-Saturday 9-5. It costs \$15 (as of 2001) and you must pay cash (no bills over \$20).

Once you've gone by the state patrol and had emissions done, you can get your car registered. Note that you should have a copy of the current registration (if it exists), and either the title or a copy of the title. Everyone will want to see these. If your car is old, you may need a copy of the original bill of sale to prevent getting charged new-car rates on your registration.

For a WA driver's license, try <http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/dl.htm>. This should also be done within 30 days. If you have a currently valid license from another state, you just have to take the written test. It's definitely a good idea to read the manual before the test! You can get a copy at the examining office or online at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/ds/guide.htm>.

The easiest way to register to vote is to do "motor-voter" registration when you apply for your driver's license. In addition, the HUB information desk has mail-in registration forms for you to fill out.

1.9 Key and building permit

Every graduate student is entitled a key that opens doors to all student offices. Your Husky card will let you in the mailroom and the building after hours. For your safety and security, a building

use permit is necessary to stay in Allen after hours. If a security officer asks to see your card after hours and you don't have it, you will have to leave. You will get your key and building use permit from Lindsay or Tracy Bartholomew, Facilities Manager.

1.10 Getting on the payroll and such

Lindsay should have the necessary W-2 forms and direct deposit forms.

1.10.1 Non-US citizens

If you are a non-US citizen, you should try to avoid paying social security since you won't benefit from it. Nevertheless, non-US citizens also need to obtain a social security number, which can be done at the local social security offices (see the blue pages in the phone book). When you do your initial paperwork with Lindsay and are a non-US citizen, be sure you fill out the necessary form to avoid paying social security. Your first few paychecks will probably have social security deducted, but you will receive a refund once the necessary paperwork percolates through the payroll office.

2 Getting through the program

2.1 Checkpoints

As an official bastion of higher learning, the department has a series of checkpoints designed to maintain *Peter's Principle*⁴. The advertised purpose of checkpoints is to bestow the degrees of M.S. and Ph.D. upon those people who will succeed and be happy at positions requiring said degrees. They also indicate pay raises for supported students.

de-pres-sion (di-presh' @ n): **1.** The act of depressing or condition of being depressed. **2.** An area sunk below its surroundings, often an area of the mind. **3.** The state of having an overwhelming desire to destroy computer equipment.

The first year of graduate school is hard. It should be harder than anything you have done before. *It is hard for everyone.* If you feel you are failing some course, get a second opinion before committing yourself to massive depression. Better yet, get several opinions and then stop worrying as much about grades. Success in a Ph.D. program hinges on more than grades.

If you find things easy for you in graduate school, then you did not go to a good enough graduate school.

– Tony Derose

2.1.1 Coursework and Grades

Most graduate courses have homework, course projects, midterms and final examinations. The final grade of a course is computed by taking all those things into account; the precise algorithm depends on the given course. In general, the course exams (midterms and final) count the most; sometimes projects are heavily emphasized.

Grades as such might be important on several occasions. The graduate school requires graduate students to have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or more. Also, grades beneath 2.7 mean you receive no credit for the course.

Lastly, your grades in quals courses are definitely taken into account when you reach the point of passing or not passing quals. There is no published standard for the grades you should maintain to pass quals, and quals is a subjective process, but rumor has it that maintaining an average at or above 3.4 in each area is a goal to shoot for.

If things get to be too much for you, you can choose to get an *Incomplete* grade for a course. To complete such a grade, you must finish the requirements within two years. However, you never

⁴Everybody is promoted to his or her level of incompetence.

need to complete the grade at all if it is not required for your graduation. It won't count in your GPA either; the only thing it may do is to look crummy on your transcripts. The details of all these grading regulations can be found in the UW General Catalog.

Grading policies vary considerably from professor to professor; some are very strict and others place less emphasis on the numbers.

Almost no-one gets below a 2.7. If you get a 2.7, consider it a fail message from the professor, but don't worry about the graduate school, since you still get credit for the course. (2.7 is the minimum grade needed to receive credit.)

2.1.2 Qualls and the Ph.D. Qualifying Exam

Sometime in the past ten years, the department decided that the MS and Ph.D. qualifying exams were filtering for test taking ability rather than potential talent as a researcher. The two batteries of exams covered six and nine areas in computer science, and lasted for three and five hours, respectively. Aren't you glad they are gone?

The quals process now consists of course requirements and a project. The course requirements are clearly documented in official handouts and will quickly become etched in your mind. They can also be found at <http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/grad/qualsdoc/>. MS quals require two fewer courses than Ph.D. quals, but the courses themselves are the same. Typical course load these days is two quals courses per quarter, at least during your first year, which has you finishing your course requirements early your second year. You may also apply to waive a quals course if you have had a graduate level course which covered the same material. Waiver forms, or breadth requirement petitions, are available at <http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/grad/current/BreadthRequirementPetit>. If you waive three or more courses, you will still be required to take at least six graded advanced graduate courses for quals.

The project requirement is a great deal less clear than the course requirements. People generally begin work on their quals project towards the end of their first year or at the beginning of their second year. The original intent was for the quals project to be a class project, extended for an additional quarter and worked on half time (20 hours per week). Original research is not required. Qualls projects have tended to grow larger than this original vision, and have even developed into publication-quality research. Again, *this is not required!*. In general, the project results in a paper (10 pages or so), and a presentation. Most students schedule a practice talk a week or so before the real thing. People will give plenty of useful advice on the structure, clarity and general effect of your talk.

2.1.3 The Ph.D. general examination

Compared to the quals, generals is far less of a hurdle. You have chosen an advisor, a Ph.D. supervisory committee, and a more precise field of study. There is an official departmental policy document on generals, which is available in the office. Generals are a University requirement, as opposed to the quals.

The commonly agreed upon goal of generals is twofold: to show depth in understanding of a particular research topic, and to demonstrate critical evaluation of the topic. The exam involves a written report (20 - 30 pages) on a set of research papers (3 to 5 papers are the average) in a very specific area and an oral presentation of this report to your Ph.D. committee and the general public.

The choice of the papers is done by the faculty and the student. Once the papers are chosen, you read them and analyze them in your written report. You have a maximum of eight weeks to write up your report. Schedule your exam 3 weeks before the exam. You must submit the report to your committee two weeks before the exam can take place.

The oral exam consists of a 30 - 40 minute presentation followed by a public question and answer period. This is followed by a closed question and answer period with your committee and other faculty members. There must be at least three CS members of your committee present at the exam (the chair and two co-advisors) and it is absolutely essential for the graduate school representative to be present. One of the hardest parts of the exam is to get everybody there on time and in the right place.

Once the presentation is over, the committee retreats and evaluates your performance. The results of their deliberations will fall vaguely into the following categories:

- **Pass**
Celebrate and start worrying about a thesis topic.
- **Conditional pass**
Either you must retake the oral presentation or re-edit the written report. Your committee will let you know what they want you to do to complete the exam.
- **Fail**
The entire exam must be retaken, which involves a new set of papers, a new report, and another oral exam. You may change the composition of your committee.

Generals are less of a hurdle than the quals, but it is a good idea to polish up your talk before you give it to your committee. Most students give practice talks to other students before the exam. People will give plenty of useful advice.

2.1.4 The Ph.D. final examination

Once you are done with your dissertation, you will know all the folklore of this department. You will also be rock-solid informed about your topic. The goal of the exam is to show that you really did some original work and therefore proudly deserve your degree.

As it is premature for details, the information provided here is cursory.

The Ph.D. exam is an oral examination which must be scheduled through the graduate school. Your supervisory committee must be present at the exam. Before you may schedule your exam, you should have selected a reading committee consisting of your principal advisor and two other CS faculty members, who are also members of your Ph.D. advisory committee. The role of the reading committee is to read and comment on your thesis before accepting it.

It is best to see the Graduate Staff Advisor (Lindsay Michimoto) for all the administrative details.

2.2 Advising

Advice comes from many places. On the formal side, feel free to ask the Graduate Faculty Advisor about courses and the like. However, if you need information on the bureaucratic details of the University, see the Graduate Staff Advisor.

More informal, and sometimes more useful advice comes from other students. Not surprisingly, students are more in touch with the personal side of courses and student life. We have in-depth experience with courses and faculty and such.

2.2.1 The Advisor - Advisee Relationship

Note that your temp advisor is not necessarily your permanent advisor. **[Someone will now fill in the role of the temp advisor]**

New students often wonder what an advisor is supposed to do. Similarly, new faculty sometimes are not sure what is required of them as advisors. The following is a rough outline of what a student may expect from his/her advisor, loosely taken from a pep-talk given by Larry Snyder.

The roles of the advisor are:

- **Research guide**

For some students, independent research is part of the quals project. For others, independent research begins after quals, and maybe after generals. Research is a difficult task, more art than science, and it cannot be taught from a textbook. The advisor should help the student learn research by providing examples of research techniques, critiquing the student's efforts, thinking through difficulties with the student, suggesting small research problems to hone

research skills, pointing out promising paths of research, and generally leading the student into the art of research.

- **Representative and advocate**

Your advisor will know your work better than anyone else in the department or field. Faculty, future employers, granting agencies, and other professionals will ask him/her for assessments of your abilities. It is his/her responsibility to you, and the others, to give an accurate and meaningful assessment of your research abilities.

- **Cheerleader, critic, and professional consultant**

This is the most difficult to define responsibility of the advisor. It is also the most susceptible to individual variation from advisor to advisor. Still, there are some basic things the advisor should provide the student, including support, guidance, and necessary criticism. This includes listening to research problems, noticing good work, tracking research progress, and thinking ahead to possible pitfalls.

The roles of the advisee are:

- **Committed researcher**

At some point in your graduate life, probably during your thesis research, your research may well be the most important activity in your life. As a *committed researcher*, you will sometimes be into your work to the point of forgetting meals and sleep and such trivialities. Just don't forget to intersperse such periods with times of less intense work. Sanity is important.

- **Professional**

There's not much to say on this one. Handle yourself in a manner that will not embarrass you, your colleagues, or the department.

- **Avid learner**

While your advisor is helping you shift into the academic/research environment, you, too, should be making a sincere effort to learn and adapt to the many behavior patterns, rules, customs, and responsibilities associated with the academic/research environment.

2.3 Support/Funding

Funding is not slavery. Many students end up getting paid to work on their own research. The extent to which you can tailor your work to your own delights depends largely on the faculty in charge of your funding.

Don't let your boss overwork you. Most RA and TAs are intended for half-time (20 hours) and some are for 10 hours a week; that's how much time you should spend on them. If you find yourself unwillingly putting in more time than this, talk with your principal investigator or professor about

cutting back on your work load. The last thing anyone in the department wants is for your work to cause you to do poorly in your classes.

In the summer many of our supported students go elsewhere, some to work in the computer industry, others to cut up barges with torches. If you are supported, there is a good chance you can find a summer job in the department, but it is not guaranteed. Again, the amount of commitment given to students varies with the supporting faculty member.

Funding can come from:

- **Teaching Assistants (TA)**

See Richard Ladner (ladner@cs) or Lindsay. If you want to teach a specific course, go talk to the instructor – you can get his/her name by looking in the class schedule⁵ or asking Lindsay in the main office. Ph.D. students are required to complete two quarters of teaching assistantship within the department before graduating.

- **Research Assistants (RA)**

See individual faculty. Let professors know that you are interested. Take a course from them. Take the associated 590. Talk to them about their research and talk to students working with them. Don't be shy; nobody expects you to know all of the details of his or her project. Often people do independent studies with a professor for a quarter or two before getting an RA.

- **Half-time TA/RAs**

Half-time TA/RAs are a rare and interesting treat. A student takes a 15 hour RA position and a 10 hour TA at the same time. The student is paid for 25 hours, which is more than usual, and the supporting professor only pays for 15 of those. You do more work, and make more money.

- **Graduate Staff Assistants (GSA)**

See Lindsay.

- **Fellowships (from NSF, IBM, ...) and Deferred Loans (from HP, GE, ...)**

External fellowships are nice because you are free to work on whatever you want without worrying about whether there is a professor willing and able to pay you for it. However, they can be rather competitive. <http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/grad/local/fellowships.html> has more information (unfortunately, a bit out-dated), or see Lindsay.

- **TAs or RAs in another department**

Contact the graduate advisor in the other department (math, statistics, engineering, Applied Physics Lab, etc.).

- **Teaching a course**

Sometimes graduate students have the chance to take full responsibility for a course. This

⁵<http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat/cse.html>

pays better than being a TA, but takes up a lot more time. Opportunities will generally be posted on the uw-cs.grads newsgroup.

- **Work Study**

Talk to the Financial Aid office (543-6101).

- **Outside Employment**

Employment opportunities are posted to the electronic bulletin board “uw-cs.grads.jobs” and on the clipboard outside the main office.

3 The CSE Department

3.1 Paychecks

This section is only relevant for supported people. Your support comes, in general, in form of a salary for your TA, GSA, or RA position. Your exact stipend is listed at the Grad School home page. If you are supported, your tuition is waived and you are billed for only a quarterly fee. You must be registered as a full time student (10 course credits per quarter for first-years and 12 course credits for older students) during the period you will be supported.

You can choose to pick up your paycheck in the CSE office, or you can arrange for direct deposit with the payroll office. Payday is the 10th and 25th of each month. If the 10th or the 25th falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Monday holiday, you are paid on the nearest weekday.

3.2 CSE Office

Be nice to secretaries, for they are God.

– Anonymous

The CSE office is a source of information, supplies, and copy machines.

3.2.1 Copy machines

Copy machines are located on every floor in rooms x41. For heavy-duty copying, you have to use the copy machines on the first floor next to the mailroom (only accessible during business hours). To use these copy machines, you will need an account code. Ask the professor you are working for to tell you what code to use.

3.2.2 Other CS office resources

Besides the copy machines, the CS office provides staplers, paper cutters, and hole punchers for your usage. You can also get a whole set of office supplies, such as overhead projector transparencies, pens, or white board markers.

There are two kind of transparencies: the ones to write on and the ones for making thermograph copies. The latter ones are used with the copy machine. Avoid using the thermograph transparencies if you only need to write on a transparency as they are considerably more expensive. If you have any question about these matters, ask someone in the office.

The department has projectors in the various conference rooms. Some classrooms include projectors in their basic furniture. If you are planning to use one, make sure that there is a projector available, and that it works.

3.3 Building Security

In the past, several incidents of computer theft have occurred on the University campus. People have been caught stealing computers and components. **Keep office doors shut and locked if no one is the office.** In the past year, we've had incidents involving thefts of laptops, digital cameras, and clothing. Allen gets a bunch of foot traffic since it is an open building. Report any suspicious activity to the university police at 9-911 from a campus phone.

3.4 TA of the year

In August 1983, Bob Bandes, one of our graduate students, died in a sky diving accident. In his memory, the department created the Bob Bandes Teaching Award to honor the best teaching assistant of the academic year. The selection of the recipient is based upon the TA's evaluation forms. You also can propose candidates for the award to the faculty instructor or to Lindsay.

3.5 Graduate Student Positions

There are several graduate student positions filled by individuals elected by their peers. The positions are held for one year and there are no term limits. Elections are held in the spring. More information and a listing of current representatives can be found at <http://www/orgs/student-affairs/gsc/positions.html>.

- **Graduate Student Coordinator:** The graduate student coordinator (GSC) is the official liaison between the faculty and the graduate students. Any problems or concerns that a student has but cannot directly approach the faculty with can be taken to the GSC. Similarly, any problem that the faculty has requiring grad student input tends to come through the GSC. The job primarily involves running the grad student elections and ensuring that the responsibilities are being taken care of; maintaining mailing lists and the grad student affairs web page; finding student volunteers to serve on committees at professors' requests; and other odd jobs. Large amounts of time are never required, but a small constant amount of maintenance is needed to handle issues as they come up and make sure things happen as they should.
- **GPSS Senators:** The Graduate and Professional Student Senate, or GPSS, holds tri-quarterly meetings. The senators get to participate in interesting discussions about various

issues relating to all aspects of graduate students' life here. The senators survey graduate students about how the department should spend its yearly allotment - currently we get the New York Times, plus we buy stuff like microwave ovens - and do all the leg and paperwork necessary to procure stuff with the money. The degree of involvement aside from this stuff depends on the senators' interest.

- **Curriculum Committee:** The curriculum committee consists of three professors, the two undergraduate advisors, and two graduate students. The committee meets irregularly, but at most once a week, for an hour to discuss ideas for improving the undergraduate curricula for Computer Science and Computer Engineering. Both small issues, such as whether physics classes should be a required part of the Computer Science curriculum, and large issues, such as reevaluating the entire undergraduate core sequence, are covered. The committee is divided into two committees: *Undergrad Curriculum Committee* and *Grad Curriculum Committee*.
- **Undergraduate Admissions Representative:** The undergraduate admissions committee meets twice a year to determine which undergraduates should be admitted to the Computer Science and Computer Engineering majors. Typically, the committee is formed of three faculty members, two undergraduate advisors, and a graduate student representative. This is a day-long activity that can be simultaneously mind-numbing and completely enjoyable, consisting of reading essays, looking over transcripts, and making careful decisions about the applicants.
- **Graduate Admissions Liaison:** One of the previous years' grad admissions graduate student committee members is elected / selected to serve on the admissions steering committee (selecting student members, scheduling grad admissions dates, process admissions decisions)
- **UNS Software Coordinator/Lab Policy Committee Representative:** The uns software coordinator coordinates student efforts to install lab-unsupported software in /uns. This includes maintaining mailing list and uns group membership, informing new members of the guidelines for installing software (in /uns), and when a disk fills up occasionally, finding some unused things to nuke, strip, etc.

The lab policy committee is responsible for department-wide policy decisions regarding hardware and software. This has tended to include issues like what types of machines/software get supported, disk space, and what it means, exactly, to be supported. Recent issues have regarded xterms vs. workstations, disk space/file server issues, and departmental acquisition of software.

The lab policy committee meets sporadically, but less than once a month for an hour. It puts minimal demands on the student representative, but most importantly, the student member must represent student opinions and needs fairly to the committee. An occasional comment about the typical usage patterns or attitudes of students towards hardware and software can be very valuable. Of course, the student rep might also occasionally address the students to demystify some lab policy decision.

- **Grad Student Seminar Coordinator:** The grad student seminar coordinator works with the grad student advisor to organize several mostly student-run seminars that are of interest to parts or all of the grad student body. This year, we had seminars on how to get a job, how to pass quals, how to get a summer internship, how to do research, and a feedback session for new students. The time commitment is mostly at the beginning of each quarter when deciding what seminars to hold and when to hold them, but also includes getting volunteer speakers, getting a room for the seminar, ordering cookies, and chairing the session.
- **Faculty Recruiting Liason:** The liason is in charge of making sure that the graduate students are kept apprised of faculty recruiting. Some specific duties are to make sure that we keep getting the information about who's invited, make sure that student hosts know what's involved in being a host and what questions to ask, and to be a contact between the recruiting committee and the student body.
- **Undergrad Liaison and Outreach Coordinator:** The coordinator is in charge of making sure that graduate students are kept abreast of outreach/volunteer opportunities. Specific duties include keeping grad students informed about events like the engineering open house and reminding us how important it is, keeping grad students informed about volunteering opportunities (maybe a web page?), and helping to organize tutoring.
- **Commercialization Liason:** The liason is in charge of making sure that the graduate student's commercialization issues are addressed by the commercialization oversight committee and to help add to the body of information about commercialization in the department.
- **Mossy Bits Editors:** Mossy Bits is a quarterly creative arts journal that is released annually. It died for a few years, but there has been renewed energy to revive it this year (2004). It contains articles, stories, poems, photographs, music, columns, and anything else composed by the department's grad students. The editors are responsible for gathering and compiling contributions and placing them on the web in one nice package. Persuasive skills are a must, as the graduate student body often requires a great deal of encouragement to generate an issue's worth of material.
- **Who's Who Editor:** Who's Who is an annual list of grad students and very brief biographical sketches. It tells you at a glance your colleagues' professional and personal interests.
- **Historian:** The historian is responsible for videotaping all important departmental events for future humiliation, uh, I mean posterity
- **Orientation Committee:** It is the role of the orientation committee to organize and execute an informative and comprehensive welcome session for the entering graduate students. It is an opportunity for the new students to meet and interact with other new students and learn about the computer science department's courses, faculty, facilities, and policies. Information is also presented about activities in and around the University and Seattle.
- **Prospective Student Committee:** Another bunch of people make up the prospective student committee. It coordinates the visits of prospective graduate students. Most of the work

centers on organizing two big recruiting days, though students can visit any time from the end of February until the middle of April. Committee members contact prospective students, help arrange airport transportation, set up meetings with faculty and current students, arrange lunch and dinner, possibly plan extra-curricular activities, and find overnight hosts. The job is demanding during the recruiting season.

First year grad students (that's you) are encouraged to join the committee. You will hear more about it as the time approaches.

- **New Grad Mentoring Coordinator:** By mentoring new graduate students, existing graduate students help ease new students' transition into our department. The Mentoring Coordinator pairs new graduate students up with existing student mentors, and assists mentors in finding answers to challenging questions from new students. Workload for this job is heaviest in the August-December period, when pairings must be made and solutions found, so that new graduate students spend as little time bewildered as necessary.
- **TGIF Coordinator:** Every Friday at 4:30 pm, a different set of offices organizes and throws the TGIF ⁶. This includes buying food and drinks and cleaning up afterwards. The TGIF coordinator manages the TGIF fund and maintains the schedule.
- **Pit Party Coordinator:** The Pit Party is the department's fall potluck bash to welcome the new students. The party is traditionally held at the Seattle Aquarium. The Pit Party coordinator will work with the office staff to organize the party.
- **Holiday Party Coordinator and Skit Director:** The annual holiday party occurs near the end of the fall quarter. Tradition dictates that there shall be two skits performed at the party – one by the faculty, and one by the students. It's not a competition, but we always win anyway, except for last year.

The coordinator must reserve a room, secure an alcohol permit, recruit a director for the student skit, buy drinks and other miscellaneous items, and obtain volunteers to help with the party.

⁶You can find out more about TGIF in section 4.3

4 Social life and activities

Throw many parties (and invite all of us).

– Anonymous

4.1 The Pit Party

The Pit Party is an annual event held at the beginning of the year to encourage old-timers to meet new-timers and vice versa. The new grad students are guests of everyone else. Enjoy this situation; it won't happen again! This year, the Pit⁷ Party will be held at the Seattle Aquarium.

4.2 The Holiday Party

The Holiday party happens just before winter break and was held in the atrium of Allen in 2003. Usually, it is held at the Center for Urban Horticulture where it will be this December. The main attractions of the Holiday party are the potluck dinner and the student and faculty skits. The Holiday party play is the officially sanctioned opportunity for students to make blatant fun of the faculty.

4.3 TGIF

Attend thy TGIF's for they are good.

– Anonymous

The TGIF (Thank Goodness It's Friday) Party is a weekly event where students and faculty get a chance to fraternize while enjoying food and drink. Bring \$2 to throw in the basket. TGIF is held in the Jaech Gallery on the sixth floor of Allen on Friday afternoons at 4:30pm. TGIF is a student-run event, and the TGIF coordinator rotates the responsibility among student offices. The delegated office picks a theme, buys the goodies, sets up and cleans up.

4.4 Sports

There are assorted sports teams in the department that play in tournaments organized by the IMA (Intramural Activities). Here is a list of some of them and how to get more information.

⁷If you're wondering what "Pit" refers to, the historical site was a barbeque pit.

- **Racquetball:** Check out <http://www.atmos.washington.edu/~ovens/rball/> to find out about the racquetball ladder.

There was a larger listing of sports that required subscribing with majordomo. The majordomo system has been replaced with mailman. There are mailing lists for soccer, volleyball, hiking, etc... See the bullet on mailing lists in Section 4.7.

During the warmer of the two rainy seasons people indulge in bike rides, hiking, crew, etc. You have to find out on your own who does what and band together with people performing your favorite sport. A good place to investigate intramural sports is the IMA with its swimming pool, basketball courts, archery, racquetball courts, squash courts, sports skills classes, etc. IMA facilities are free to enrolled students and available to guests for a small fee.

4.5 Arts

Seattle has a thriving arts community, and there is a great deal taking place on the UW campus as well as throughout the city. Whether you come here from a small college town or a metropolis, you'll be surprised to discover how cosmopolitan Seattle is.

Ample opportunities are offered to partake of performing, studio, and museum arts. Prices are generally reasonable and student discounts are often obtainable.

Many University events are advertised on the HUB events calendar (across from the cashier on the main level) or check the University newspaper, *The Daily*. For complete listings of Seattle goings on look in the following:

- The Friday *Seattle Times* entertainment section
- The *Seattle Weekly* (available in automats like the newspapers, now free)
- *Soundings Northwest* (available at news stands or by subscription)
- *The Stranger* (available for free at many businesses along the Ave⁸)

If you're an amateur performer, there are many opportunities for you to perform, both on and off campus. Just ask around or read the local rags.

4.6 Clubs/Organizations

There are an astonishing number of student clubs and organizations on campus. The Student Activities Office (207 HUB) maintains an index of these containing information regarding membership,

⁸University Ave: the large north/south street located to the west of the campus.

statement of purpose, names of whom to contact, etc. which you are welcome to browse through. A list can also be found at <http://www.washington.edu/students/sao/>. Membership is usually inexpensive and many organizations offer beginning and advanced classes at very reasonable rates. Clubs and organizations also set up tables on the HUB lawn in the first month of school for sign-ups.

4.7 Miscellaneous

Other things that might fit under the category of social activities are:

- Bridge: there are a number of die-hard bridge players in the department. Subscribe to bridge@cs using majordomo.
- Chess and Bughouse: If you are interested in chess or bughouse, a strange variation on chess, there are usually games going on at TGIF. The mailing list. The list owner is chess-request@june and the members are chess@june.
- Mailing Lists: see <http://mailman.cs.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/> and <http://mailman.cs.washington.edu/csenetid/auth/mailman/listinfo> for mailing lists on almost any activity. Some lists are not very active, but you could revive it! Can't find a list covering an activity you enjoy? Start one and advertise it.

5 Campus facilities and info

The University of Washington campus sits on 703 acres in northeast Seattle, between Portage Bay on Lake Union and Union Bay on Lake Washington. It boasts 25,000 undergraduate and 9,000 graduate and professional students. The original Territorial University was founded in 1861 in what is now downtown, and moved to its present site in 1895. For an interesting historical tour of campus, take a look at <http://www.washington.edu/home/historical/>.

5.1 Commuting

If you live too far away to walk to campus, you have at least 4 options: car, bus, bicycle, or boat. For more information on commuting options including ride-sharing and bus passes call 543-0450. The number for parking information is 535-1543.

The Information Desk in the HUB has brochures which detail parking rates and locations as well as bus routes, schedules, and pass options.

5.1.1 Driving

Before you decide to commute by car, consider the cost in money and stress. Parking permits may be available for on-campus lots, but most student parking is in the Montlake lot. If you drive from the Bellevue vicinity, beware of the bridge traffic. Actually, you need beware the traffic in general in Seattle. Carpooling can help lower costs and improve the location of your parking and maybe even your commute-time because there are carpool lanes on the freeways. There is even a ride-share matching service.

After 9:30 p.m., after noon on Saturdays, and all day Sundays and holidays, parking is free for anyone on campus in most lots. If you come from the west, consider the lot hidden underneath Red Square. (Enter from 15th and 41th.)

5.1.2 Bussing

The University is one of the city's major bus hubs. You will be charged \$37.00 each quarter (as of Summer 2004) for a U-PASS, which comes with your registration confirmation. It entitles you to complete bus service in King County, and many other perks at local businesses. Bus maps and schedules are available in the HUB.

5.1.3 Biking

Because of the lack of snow in winter (well MOST winters anyway), it is possible to bike all year (and well, yeah, you do get wet once in a while). There is a bike room in the basement of Allen. Bike lockers are also available on campus for \$55 per year plus a \$50 key deposit. Lockers are scarce, but bike racks and office nooks abound. See http://www.washington.edu/upass/getting_here/biking_bike_lockers.html for more information.

The regulations on bicycle parking say “bicycles shall not be parked in buildings, near building exits, on paths or sidewalks, in planted areas, nor chained to trees, lamp standards, or sign posts.” Just in case, you should register your bike with Campus Police at 1117 N.E. Boat St. The bike shop in the HUB offers non-profit expert service and parts, and will let you use their tools and stands from 8-10 a.m.

For biking information you can turn to the Cascade Bicycle Club (<http://www.cascade.org> or 522-BIKE) or the King County Pedestrian and Bicycle Program (684-7583). The KC Ped and Bike program puts out a free Seattle bike map worth having.

Bike trails and paths emanate from University in four directions: west and northeast on the Burke-Gilman, northwest to Green Lake, and south to Seward Park.

The Burke-Gilman Trail - Extending from Leary Way in Ballard to Marymoor Park in Redmond, this trail provides 25 miles of level, paved trail for runners, bikers, walkers, roller bladers and other non-motorized traffic. It passes just south of campus, and under the University Bridge.

Ravenna Boulevard to Green Lake - Take 17th from the University north to Ravenna, and turn left. This broad avenue has a wide bike lane that takes you northwest to Green Lake, a haven for joggers, bikers, and dogs.

The Lake Washington Loop - Go south over Montlake Bridge, take a left, and you're on the Lake Washington Loop. Green signs will point out the winding path through hilly, sleepy Montlake back streets down to the scenic waterfront route to Seward Park. Cyclists have right of way a good part of the way.

5.2 Arts

5.2.1 Burke Museum

The Burke Memorial Museum of natural history is located on the North end of campus. The focus is on the cultures of the Pacific Rim, mainly Northwest Coast Indian. There are changing exhibits in addition to the permanent collection. A small coffee house lies on the lower level.

5.2.2 Henry Art Gallery

Located by the footbridge across 15th, the Henry Art Gallery regularly changes exhibits. Traveling shows are often featured as well as shows by local artists.

5.2.3 Meany Hall

Meany Hall houses the University's newest and best-equipped theater; really one of Seattle's best for music and dance. Performances by internationally acclaimed artists as well as productions by the UW music and drama schools take place here. Subscriptions are available to any of a number of series, usually at a discount for students.

5.2.4 Tickets

Tickets for on-campus arts events are often available from the *HUB Ticket Office* (by the cashier's office). Advance purchase prices are frequently lower than night of the event prices. You might inquire about the BLUE and NOTE cards for extra discounts.

Tickets for some events must be purchased at the *UW Arts Ticket Office*, 4001 University Way NE. Non-campus events are handled by the theater box offices or by Ticketmaster.

5.3 Athletic Facilities

The University has one of the finest athletic facilities in Seattle. A wide variety of sports equipment, classes and clubs are offered.

5.3.1 IMA - <http://depts.washington.edu/ima/>

The *Intramural Activities Building* (always referred to as the IMA, each letter pronounced separately) is the main campus sports facility. It contains a half-size pool, sun-deck, handball, racquetball, squash, volleyball, badminton and basketball courts, weightlifting, aerobics, archery/fencing and wrestling rooms, saunas, locker rooms (lockers are available free to students on a quarterly basis), equipment checkout (for use on or off campus) and the *Recreational Sports Office*. Free archery and rollerskating sessions are open to students. Associated with the IMA are tennis courts, tennis practice wall, football, baseball and soccer fields. Use of the facilities is free to students, and guests are allowed for a small fee. Reservations are usually taken to use courts and playing fields, but walk-ons will find openings in many cases (e.g. racquetball and squash).

If you are interested in playing, the IMA sponsors a number of intramural leagues including football, basketball, ultimate frisbee, softball, soccer, and volleyball. The department has teams that

participate in most of these sports.

5.3.2 Waterfront Activities Center

The WAC (pronounced as one word) hides behind the stadium, on Lake Washington. This is the home of the boat-related clubs and features canoe rentals and rowboat rentals rentals at very reasonable rates, saunas, locker rooms (lockers free to students), boat repair shop and boat storage. Lessons are available through clubs and the University Extension in sailing, sailboarding, canoeing, kayaking, rowing, etc. Graduates of the lessons get unlimited access to the boats with club membership. You can find out more at http://depts.washington.edu/ima/IMA_wac.php.

5.3.3 Climbing Rock

It's a wall. No, it's a sculpture. No, it's the practice climbing rock, located near the WAC. No pitons, please.

5.3.4 Golf Range

The University Golf Range, across from University Village Shopping Center, offers covered tees, chipping and putting greens, night lighting, club rentals, and classes. More info on the golf range is at http://depts.washington.edu/ima/IMA_golf.php.

5.3.5 Athletic Teams

If you are looking to see some games rather than play you still have a variety of choices. Husky football is big in Seattle, with games against PAC-10 opponents like UCLA, Arizona, and WSU and non-conference games against teams like Nebraska. The Huskies play at Husky Stadium located between Hec-Ed and the WAC. Beware of traffic in the University district before and after football games—everything stops.

The men's and women's basketball teams are both exciting to watch. PAC-10 power houses like UCLA and Arizona travel to Seattle at least once a year. The games are played in Hec-Ed and most regular season games are free.

Outside of UW, Seattle has some impressive professional teams also, including the Mariners (baseball), Sonics (basketball), Seahawks (football), and Sounders (soccer).

5.4 Bookstore

The University Bookstore offers a wide selection in gifts, books, office and school supplies, as well as textbooks. The mail-order department is said to be the largest of any bookstore outside New York City. They will mail books anywhere in the US for free, and they will deliver any purchase within Seattle for free. Other services include free gift wrapping and packing.

Each year the bookstore offers a patronage refund to students and staff. Your share of the refund is usually about 10% of the purchases you make during the year. *Save the sales receipts* and turn them in at the end of Spring Quarter.

The main university bookstore is located on University Way (“the Ave”), but there is a small branch in the HUB. There is also a branch somewhere in Bellevue for the suburbanites.

5.5 Copy Centers

The University has a number of Copy Centers. Prices may be higher than those found on the Ave but the convenience and speed are occasionally worth it. Often, reading packets for courses will be found in one of the copy centers too.

Copy Centers are located in:

- B-1 Communications
- B-18 Schmitz Hall
- B-36 Administration Building
- 450 Suzzallo Library
- 115 Balmer Hall
- 202 Engineering Library
- 122 Lewis Hall
- Odegaard Undergraduate Library, first floor

5.6 Dining On Campus

Probably not the most exciting of culinary experiences, it is nevertheless often necessary to eat on campus. There are several cafeterias and the dorm cafeterias are open to non-residents. You can use cash or your Husky card.

The following is a list of campus food services. Open times vary, and service is limited on weekends and holidays. So beware if you plan to be on campus at odd times and think you'll need nourishment.

Husky Den - in the HUB. You'll be eating at Subway a lot.

By George - in the Odegaard Undergraduate Library, ground floor (across from Meany Hall)

Haggett North - Haggett Hall, ground floor north tower

Market Place - McMahon Hall, ground floor

Design-A-Burger - McMahon Hall, ground floor

Terry Cafe - Terry Hall, main floor

Portage Bay Galley - South Campus Center, ground floor

The Court Cafe - Health Sciences, second floor E-Wing

The Burke Coffee House in the Burke Museum is a nice place to stop for a cup of coffee and a dessert. There is an outdoor patio for use in good weather.

5.7 HUB

The *Husky Union Building* is the UW student union building. Besides being the source of coffee and food closest to Allen, it has numerous useful facilities, offices and meeting rooms. Use the *Information Desk* on the first floor as a starting place for HUB and campus information.

Some of the facilities in the HUB are:

- the ASUW (Associated Students of the University of Washington)
- Poster Shop,
- Student Organization Offices,
- Games Area with bowling lanes, pool tables, pinball, video arcade,
- Hair Style Shop,
- Bank,
- Husky Den,
- Ride Board,

- Postal Center,
- Art Gallery,
- Information Desk with voter registration, Metro schedules and more,
- Music Lounge,
- Bike Shop,
- Bookstore,
- Housing Office,
- Newsstand,
- Ticket Office,
- Student Government Offices

5.8 Visitor's Information Center

The *Visitor Information Center* is located at 4014 University Way N.E. They carry maps and information about the University, Seattle, and the surrounding area.

5.9 Student Legal Services

The *Student Legal Services* provides basic legal aid for students. They will handle non-fee-generating cases, advise and (if necessary) refer to attorneys. First half hour consultation is free, hourly fee after that.

5.10 Libraries

5.10.1 Suzzallo Library

The main library. Houses the central card catalog with entries for all campus libraries. Take a look at the graduate reading room some day.

5.10.2 Odegaard Undergraduate Library

More modern facilities. Large literature collection. Comfortable lounge chairs (good place for a nap).

5.10.3 Engineering Library

Technical references. Carries major IEEE journals and similar literature. Good place to hide out for quiet study in the many carrels.

5.10.4 Computing Information Center

The CIC, more commonly known as the ACS library, is in the Academic Computing Center building. It carries most major journals in Computer Science, and has many tech notes from other schools and a large number of standard references.

5.11 University Extension

The *University Extension* offers credit and non-credit classes for reasonable fees. They have a number of classes that are not available elsewhere, and they are a possible employment opportunity. A new catalog is published each quarter. Call 543-2300 for information or 543-2320 for a catalog.

5.12 Experimental College

The *Experimental College* offers extra-curricular classes in activities such as arts and crafts, dancing, nature excursions, and home computing. Look for their catalog each quarter in places such as the HUB or the University Bookstore or call 543-4375. They also have an office in the HUB.

6 Seattle information

6.1 Seattle places and attractions

6.1.1 Seattle Arts Museum

The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) is located in downtown Seattle at 100 University Street, just south of the Pike Place Market on First Avenue. The SAM has a permanent collection of more than 20,000 objects representing a wide range of artistic expression – from ancient Egyptian sculpture and African textiles to Northwest Coast Native masks and contemporary American painting. <http://www.seattle.net/entertain/visual.html> provides more information on museums in Seattle.

6.1.2 Dining Out: Restaurants & Clubs

Seattle has a lot of good restaurants and a fairly lively club scene. Citysearch has a pretty good list of restaurants that you can search by neighborhood: <http://seattle.citysearch.com/>. As for clubs, the best way to find a place to spend a free Saturday night is probably from *The Stranger*. In the back (before Savage Love) there is a listing of clubs and where bands and D.J.s are playing.

6.1.3 Seattle Center

The Space Needle, Monorail and Key Arena have put down roots here. The Opera House, Seattle Repertory Theatre and Pacific Science Center make their home here, too. Each year almost 9 million people visit Seattle Center.

While tourists check out the landmarks, locals take in concerts, festivals and perennial favorites held at the center, such as Bumbershoot, Northwest Folklife and Bite of Seattle. (Call the 24-hour hotline at 684-8582 for a listing of events.)

6.1.4 Pike Place Market

The Pike Place Market is, first and foremost, a Seattle institution. It began with a pledge to bring together shoppers and local farmers without the “middleman,” a concept that appealed to thrifty Seattlites.

Included in the nine-acre Market proper are the year-round farmers market and crafts arcade, as well as restaurants and a variety of retail shops and stalls. Cruise the food stalls for locally grown vegetables, fruit and flowers; catch fresh-caught fish flying out of the arms of local hawkers; or

revel in the hand-crafted hippie atmosphere of the arts and crafts stalls. The Market also houses loads of restaurants, from upscale (Il Bistro, Cutters, Cafe Campagne) to down home (Piroshky Piroshky, Turkish Delight). Coffee bars abound, including the original Starbucks store, and shops featuring everything from designer eyewear to Pakistani groceries crowd the Market's turn-of-the-century buildings.

6.1.5 Parks

There are lots of nice parks around Seattle. Discovery Park is the largest. Gasworks Park is close enough to walk to heading West on the Burke-Gilman trail. Freeway Park, Magnuson Park, Green Lake Park, Volunteer Park and Washington Park Arboretum are just a few of the many others. You can find out about parks in the Seattle area at <http://seattle.citysearch.com/>.

6.2 Neighborhoods and places

Seattle is generally thought of as being roughly divided into a collection of distinct neighborhoods, each with its own individual character. The area immediately surrounding campus is the University (or U) District, while some of the surrounding neighborhoods where students often live include Ravenna, View Ridge, Sandpoint, Wedgwood and Lake City to the north, Wallingford and Fremont to the west, and Eastlake to the south across the University Bridge. To the east is Laurelhurst and to the southeast (across the Montlake Bridge) is Montlake, however both of these neighborhoods are pricier (but of course quite nice). A good place to read about Seattle's neighborhoods (and the surrounding towns and cities) is the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer's* online archive of neighborhood stories, at <http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/neighbors/overmap.html>.

Another good site for discovering Seattle places and lore is Steven Callihan's "Seattle Lexicon," at <http://www.callihan.com/seattle/lexicon.htm>.

6.3 Useful Web Sites

If you're looking for something to do in the Seattle area, you might check out one of these sites:

- CSE Grad Life page <http://www.cs.washington.edu/orgs/student-affairs/gsc/info.html>
- Seattle Citysearch <http://seattle.citysearch.com/>
- Burke Museum <http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/>
- Qwest Dex Yellow Pages <http://www.dexonline.com/>
- Seattle Mariners <http://mariners.org/>

7 Online information

7.1 URLs

- **UW CSE Graduate Student Affairs Home:**
<http://www.cs.washington.edu/orgs/student-affairs/gsc/> - This is a gateway into the departments Web pages that is better suited to the sorts of things you will want to find as a grad student than the general department home page.
- **MyUW:**
<http://myuw.washington.edu/> - MyUW is a personalized portal to UW web-based services. It includes links to your class schedule, grades, registration, tuition statements, husky card account, as well as a lot of generic information.
- **Information for Current Fulltime Graduate Students:**
<http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/grad/current.html> - Lots of useful information including a link to the grad student directory with names, offices, phone numbers, and email of all grad students.
- **TA Home Page:**
<http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/ta-home/> - “Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Being A Teaching Assistant”
- **Guide To Classroom Locations:**
<http://www.washington.edu/students/reg/buildings.html> - This is a good way to figure out where buildings on campus are.
- **Office Information:**
http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/student_info.html - copiers, phones, supplies, fax, mail.
- **Ph.D. Requirements and Deadlines:**
<http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/grad/phdregs/> - All the official requirements for all the hurdles between now and graduation.
- **Graduate Appointee Health Insurance Plan:**
<http://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/benefits/gaip/gaip.html> - Information about health insurance for supported students.
- **UW CS&E Graduate Student Who’s Who:**
<http://mangrove.cs.washington.edu:8080/servlet/apps.ServeWhosWho> - Get to know your peers.
- **UW CSE Research:**
<http://www.cs.washington.edu/research/> - Info about research projects going on here.

- **UW-CSE New Grad Student Orientation:**
<http://www.cs.washington.edu/orientation/> All the info from Orientation.
- **UW Administrative Offices directory:**
<http://www.washington.edu/students/contacts.html> - locations and phone numbers.
- **Computer Science & Engineering Course Schedule:**
<http://www.washington.edu/students/crscat/cse.html> - This tells you what classes are offered, as well as giving you the magic SLN code that you'll need to register for each class.
- **U-PASS:**
<http://www.washington.edu/upass/> Information about all the commuting and retail benefits of a U-PASS.
- **Parking at the University of Washington:**
<http://www.washington.edu/admin/parking/index.html>
- **Seattle Citysearch:**
<http://seattle.citysearch.com> - This is a great place to find out about all kinds of things in Seattle - places, events, activities, restaurants, movies, . . .

7.2 Newsgroups

- `uw-cs.bboard` bulletin board for non-department discussions
- `uw-cs.grads` grad newsgroup (should be read daily)
- `uw-cs.grads.jobs` job listings for grads
- `uw-cs.apps.announce.uns` uns application announcements
- `uw-cs.lab-help` grad student forum for questions about software & facilities

See “Contacting the Student Body” at <http://www.cs.washington.edu/uns/uw-cs-forums.html> for a description of some of these groups and their usage etiquette.