

PHD IN INFORMATION

Preparing the next generation of researchers and thought leaders in academia, government and industry.

Offered on campus and typically completed in five years, the University of Arizona PhD in Information offers an inclusive intellectual space for all, and seeks a wide range of students with diverse research interests and experiences—including machine learning, natural language processing, artificial intelligence, virtual/mixed reality, game development, immersive technologies, new media and internet studies, human-computer interaction, digital curation, archival studies and the future of work.

As the state's only member of the iSchools consortium, the School of Information fosters interdisciplinary understanding, preparing students for advanced information and data careers as professors, information professionals, scientists, consultants and more.



“*The PhD in Information at the University of Arizona offers the perfect union of history, mathematics, programming, causal inference, formalizing language, teaching and logic.*

– Salena Torres Ashton, PhD in Information '25

SUGGESTED DEGREE COMPLETION TIMELINE

- YEAR 1**
 - Complete INFO 507: Information Research Methods
 - Submit Plan of Study at end of Year 1
- YEAR 2**
 - Complete course work
- YEAR 3**
 - Complete comprehensive exams at beginning of Year 3
 - Complete dissertation committee appointment form after passing comprehensive exams
 - Complete and defend dissertation proposal by end of Year 3
- YEAR 4-5**
 - Conduct dissertation research and writing
 - Defend dissertation by end of Year 4 or Year 5 (depends on progress, funding and support from faculty advisor)

Ready to excel as an information science researcher and thought leader?

ischool.arizona.edu/phd

si_admissions@arizona.edu



Funded

Full funding available for qualified students.

- » 1:1 Mentoring
- » Interdisciplinary
- » Customizable course paths

63

Academic Units Required



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

School of Information

PhD IN INFORMATION

CURRICULUM AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

63 units are required for graduation: 36 units of major coursework, 18 dissertation units and 9-15 units for the PhD minor.

FIRST-YEAR COURSES

INFO 507: Information Research Methods	3 units
TOTAL	3 units

RESEARCH METHODS

Students are required to take 6 units of research methods courses that focus on the methodology they are likely to use in their own research. This requirement may be waived if the student has acquired sufficient methodological grounding prior to entering the PhD program. In that case, the student will be required to take one additional elective to complete the 36 units of major coursework.

TOTAL 6 units

GRADUATE SEMINARS

Students are required to take two research seminars in the School of Information. The research seminars will focus on various specific topics in information science. Normally, students will be required to read and discuss research articles on that topic and write a research paper or carry out a research project.

TOTAL 6 units

DIRECTED RESEARCH

Students will take 9 units of directed research (LIS/INFO 692) selected in consultation with their advisor; they will apprentice on an iSchool faculty member's research project to meet this requirement.

TOTAL 9 units

ELECTIVE COURSES

Students will take 4 elective graduate courses within the iSchool (LIS/INFO) selected in consultation with their advisor.

TOTAL 12 units

DISSERTATION RESEARCH

After comprehensive exams, and after submitting a one-page proposal approved by the advisor, students will take a total of 18 units of Dissertation Research (LIS/INFO 920)

TOTAL 18 units

PHD MINOR COURSEWORK

Students are required to declare a PhD minor and take 9-15 units (3 to 5 courses) to satisfy the minor requirement.

TOTAL 9-15 units

DEGREE TOTAL 63 units

Please visit ischool.arizona.edu/phd-information/curriculum-courses for more information, including selecting a PhD advisor, annual review, comprehensive examinations, dissertation proposal and defense, scholarship expectations and more.

The PhD curriculum and degree requirements are subject to change based on catalog year, transfer work, etc. The official degree requirements may be found in the University General Catalog and all University of Arizona students should refer to the Academic Advising Report for specific graduation requirements.