

# ini STUDENT HANDBOOK

*Applies to Students Enrolling in  
Academic Year 2022-23*

2022-23 ACADEMIC YEAR  
INFORMATION NETWORKING INSTITUTE  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

# THE INI STUDENT HANDBOOK

This handbook contains the most accurate information for INI students enrolling in the INI in Academic Year 2022-2023.

Please note that the information in this handbook may be amended at any time after initial publication. If major changes are made to the policies listed in this handbook, you will be notified.

Consult the version table to review post-publication edits made to this volume.

VERSION TABLE

Version	Date	Description of edits
1.0	August 30, 2022	Prepared for AY 2022-23
2.0	October 19, 2022	Clarification p. 9 and p. 24. Students with academic integrity violations are no longer eligible for financial awards.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Carnegie Mellon Vision & Mission .....	4
About the INI.....	4
Essential Guidelines .....	5
Student Responsibility.....	7
<b>II. Pre-Matriculation .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Applicant Responsibilities .....	8
INI Graduate Onboarding Course.....	8
Academic Integrity.....	8
Scholarships and Financial Awards.....	9
Admission Deferrals.....	9
Confidentiality of Communications .....	9
<b>III. Enrollment &amp; Registration.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Preparing an Academic Plan .....	10
Course Sequencing .....	11
Course Restrictions .....	12
Petition Procedure .....	13
Retaking a Course .....	14
Courses Outside Degree Requirements .....	14
Auditing and Pass/ No Pass .....	14
Transfer of Credit.....	15
Registering for Courses.....	16
Program Transfer & Study Option Change Procedures .....	18
Final Exams.....	19
Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).....	19
RA / TA Positions .....	20
Enrollment Verifications / Transcript Requests.....	20
Change of Address.....	21

Degree Certification .....	21
<b>IV. Academic Standards .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Grading Standards.....	22
Academic Performance.....	22
Academic Integrity.....	23
<b>V. Degree Requirements .....</b>	<b>25</b>
Overview .....	25
M.S. Information Networking (MSIN) .....	26
M.S. Information Security (MSIS) .....	28
Bicoastal Programs: MSIT-IS and MSMITE.....	31
M.S. in Artificial Intelligence ENGINEERING – Information Security (MSAIE-IS) .....	34
Accelerated Program .....	36
Part-Time Program .....	36
Specialized Learning Tracks .....	37
Services for International Students .....	38
Statute of Limitations .....	38
<b>VI. International Students .....</b>	<b>39</b>
Maintaining Status.....	39
Internships / Academic Training .....	40
Work Authorization .....	41
Program Transfers and Study Option Changes .....	42
<b>VII. Career Services.....</b>	<b>44</b>
University Career Resources .....	44
Job & Internship Search Guidelines.....	44
<b>VIII. Metacurricular Opportunities.....</b>	<b>46</b>
INI Student Organizations .....	46
Conference Funding.....	46
INI Graduation Awards.....	46
<b>IX. Tuition &amp; Fees.....</b>	<b>47</b>

Tuition Rates.....	47	Computing Policies and Resources.....	56
Billing and Payments.....	47	Laptops.....	56
University Financial Aid .....	47	Printing Services .....	56
Office of the Dean of Students Emergency Support Funding.....	47	Additional Resources .....	56
Student Financial Obligation .....	47	<b>XII. Building Policies.....</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>X. University Policies.....</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>XIII. Post-Matriculation Guidelines.....</b>	<b>58</b>
University Policies & Expectations.....	48	Return of University Property.....	58
Academic Calendar .....	48	Exit Interviews .....	58
Carnegie Mellon University Statement of Assurance..	48	<b>XIV. Acronyms.....</b>	<b>59</b>
The Carnegie Mellon Code .....	49	<b>Appendix A: University Resources .....</b>	<b>60</b>
Drop/Add/Withdraw Procedures .....	50	Key Offices for Graduate Student Support .....	60
Transfer Courses & PCHE .....	50	Key Offices for Academic & Research Support.....	63
University Policies on Grading.....	50	Key Offices for Health, Wellness & Safety.....	66
University Policy on Academic Integrity.....	50	The WORD Student Handbook .....	68
Leave of Absence / Withdrawal .....	51	<b>Appendix B: Independent Study.....</b>	<b>70</b>
Withdrawal of Degree.....	52	<b>Appendix C: Master's Thesis / Project .....</b>	<b>72</b>
Summary of Graduate Student Appeal and Grievance Procedures .....	52	Guidelines.....	72
Student Privacy Rights.....	52	<b>Appendix D: Internships .....</b>	<b>73</b>
Intellectual Property .....	53		
Pets & Other Animals .....	53		
Alcohol and Drugs .....	53		
Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities .....	53		
Safeguarding Educational Equity / Policy Against Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault.....	54		
Consensual Intimate Relationship Policy Regarding Undergraduate Students .....	54		
Childbirth/Maternity Accommodation Protocol .....	54		
Employment Eligibility Verification.....	55		
<b>XI. Computing Services .....</b>	<b>56</b>		

# I. INTRODUCTION

## WELCOME TO CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY!

Students are at the core of the INI's mission, which is to educate and develop engineers through technical, interdisciplinary master's degree programs in information networking, security and mobile and IoT engineering that incorporate business and policy perspectives.

**All INI students should read and understand the contents of this handbook.** Note that you will have to consult other resources beyond this handbook throughout your time at CMU, and the INI administration may modify the information presented here at any time.

*Consult the INI Student Handbook for guidelines and expectations as you pursue your degree.*

## CARNEGIE MELLON VISION & MISSION

### VISION

Carnegie Mellon University will have a transformative impact on society through continual innovation in education, research, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

### MISSION

To create a transformative educational experience for students focused on deep disciplinary knowledge; problem solving; leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills; and personal health and well-being.

To cultivate a transformative university community committed to attracting and retaining diverse, world-class talent; creating a collaborative environment open to the free exchange of ideas, where research, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship can flourish; and ensuring individuals can achieve their full potential.

To impact society in a transformative way—regionally, nationally, and globally—by engaging with partners outside the traditional borders of the university campus.

## ABOUT THE INI

Established in 1989, the Information Networking Institute has evolved over the past three decades to become an integral part of Carnegie Mellon University's College of Engineering, and home to over 300 students each year from around the world.

Our unparalleled student services and inclusive culture set the INI apart from other graduate programs. We strive to cultivate an environment that is welcoming, supportive and inspiring for all students, faculty, staff and alumni across our program locations in Pittsburgh and Silicon Valley.

INI graduates contribute to technological advancements, pioneer engineering solutions and lead enterprises in the global economy. The INI is proud to nurture an alumni community that is dedicated to the highest standards of ethics and provides mentorship and access to diverse opportunities for current INI students from around the world.

### About the INI:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/about/index.html>

### INI's Mission, Vision and Values:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/about/mvv.html>

## DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED

All INI master's degree programs are designed to provide students with advanced, specialized training that combines computer science, software engineering, electrical and computer engineering, and information systems with coursework in business and policy:

- M.S. in Information Networking (MSIN)



- M.S. in Information Security (MSIS)
- M.S. in Information Technology-Information Security (MSIT-IS)
- M.S. in Mobile and IoT Engineering (MSMITE)
- M.S. in Artificial Intelligence Engineering – Information Security (MSAIE-IS)

For INI cohorts beginning in Fall 2020 and onward, all INI degree programs have four study options available:

- Standard (3 Semesters, No Internship)
- Applied (3 Semesters, Required Internship)
- Advanced Study (4 Semesters, No internship)
- Applied Advanced Study (4 Semesters, Required Internship)

See [Ch. V Degree Requirements](#) for more details on study options. Students entering the INI in Spring 2021 onward must declare their study option at the start of their program and are expected to satisfy the course requirements and duration of the study option they elect in order to complete their degree.

**VISIT THE INI ACADEMICS WEBSITE** for more detailed information about your specific program's curriculum and degree requirements:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/>

## ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES

### USING THIS HANDBOOK

Read and consult the INI Student Handbook for guidelines and expectations as you progress through your INI program. In addition to the handbook, you should also frequently refer to the Student Resources page (below) of the INI website for additional student resources and commonly used forms.

While this handbook is specific to your academic experience at the INI, there are several other resources and offices that you should consult during your time at

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). This includes CMU's student handbook The Word, the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs, the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs and others. Go to [Appendix A: University Resources for Graduate Students](#) for more details.

**INI Student Resources:**  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/>

### SEEKING ACADEMIC SUPPORT

We encourage you to seek support and assistance throughout your time at the INI. For academic guidance and personal issues, the INI faculty and staff members are available at the contact information listed on the INI website.

As members of the INI community, you are a part of the College of Engineering and should be familiar with the policies and guidelines of the college, which are available online at the link below.

**INI Faculty and Staff Contact Information:**  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/about/team/>

**College of Engineering Grad Student Policies:**  
<https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic-policies/graduate-policies/index.html>

### STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS

You are responsible for reading and understanding all communications that come from the INI regarding important updates, academic policies, processes and deadlines.

Regularly check the following channels for these important communications:

## The INI All-Student Hub (Canvas)

The department utilizes a Canvas site called the “INI All Student HUB” to share key information with students, such as:

- curricular and enrollment updates
- director’s announcements
- career services
- conferences and professional development opportunities
- workshops and events
- student volunteer opportunities
- other key updates and opportunities

## Email and Slack

The INI also uses email and Slack for additional student communication, including general university announcements, student organization messaging and event reminders. It is your responsibility to access the INI HUB on Canvas, in addition to email and Slack, on a regular basis to stay informed.

## MAINTAINING COMMUNITY STANDARDS

We aim to cultivate an environment that supports every member of the INI community in achieving their full potential. Please adhere to CMU’s Community Standards and demonstrate your commitment to respect and integrity in all interactions with fellow students, faculty and staff.

Review CMU Community Standards:

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/community-standards/index.html>

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Each member of the CMU community is responsible for understanding and following university policies and guidelines.

While many university policies are included in this handbook in [Ch. X University Policies](#), you should visit the CMU website for full a full list of policies.

Review the following resources, as they are particularly helpful in supporting your understanding of community expectations and policies; you can find more information about these resources in [Appendix A: University Resources for Graduate Students](#).

The Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education:

[www.cmu.edu/graduate](http://www.cmu.edu/graduate) | email: [grad-ed@cmu.edu](mailto:grad-ed@cmu.edu)

The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs

[www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/index.html)

Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

email: [eos@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:eos@andrew.cmu.edu)

Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence

[www.cmu.edu/teaching](http://www.cmu.edu/teaching)

Graduate Student Assembly (GSA)

[www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/index.html)

Student Academic Success Center (SASC)

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-success/index.html>

Office of International Education (OIE)

<https://www.cmu.edu/oie/>

Counseling & Psychological Service (CaPS)

<https://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>

Health Services

[www.cmu.edu/HealthServices](http://www.cmu.edu/HealthServices)

University Police

[www.cmu.edu/police](http://www.cmu.edu/police)

The Word (CMU student online handbook)

<http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword>

CMU Academic Integrity Policy  
[www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity)

University Policies  
[www.cmu.edu/policies/](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/)

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

---

Throughout your time at the INI, you are responsible for following the appropriate course sequence and study option requirements in order to successfully progress through your degree program and complete all requirements to graduate.

Ensure that you are taking the necessary prerequisites and courses to complete all requirements on time by reviewing all curriculum and degree requirements, which can be found in [Ch. V Degree Requirements](#).

The INI director has the discretion to authorize and impose sanctions on students who exhibit inappropriate behavior or conduct, or with regard to general issues that may arise as deemed necessary.



## II. PRE-MATRICULATION

In this section, you will find guidelines for accepted students prior to matriculation into the INI's programs.

### APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

---

You must provide all requested information on the program application, except where there is an option to decline to respond. Failure to do so, or submission of fraudulent or misleading information, will be grounds to rescind your offer of admission or continued enrollment at any time during matriculation or subsequent attendance. University application fees and enrollment deposits associated with the application and matriculation process are non-refundable.

### PROOF OF GRADUATION

In order to pursue a graduate degree at the INI, students enrolling in an INI program must be able to prove they've obtained a bachelor's degree. Proof of graduation is defined as submission of complete and final official undergraduate academic records showing all terms of attendance, as well as any documents issued to confirm both satisfactory completion of the program of study and conferral of a bachelor's degree. Students admitted to the INI must submit proof of graduation in the manner stipulated. The INI provides instructions for meeting these requirements to admitted applicants upon matriculation.

As Proof of Graduation is a condition of enrollment, the INI asks for requested documentation to be submitted prior to the first term of entry. While the INI may grant extensions for document submission on a case-by-case basis, some demonstration of undergraduate degree qualification or conferral must be provided before first-term classes begin. A student's enrollment in an INI program can be nullified if they fail to prove conferral of a bachelor's degree.

## INI GRADUATE ONBOARDING COURSE

---

*Please review the assigned modules and complete assignments in this course by the start of your first semester.*

Incoming students begin to receive information relevant to their arrival shortly after being admitted and submitting an enrollment deposit. Students will be given all the necessary information to make a smooth transition to the INI through a series of INI Admitted student events, slack posts, and modules and assignments in the INI Graduate Onboarding canvas course. You must complete all assignments in the INI's graduate onboarding course by the posted deadline and you are responsible for reviewing and familiarizing yourself with important department and university resources included in the course.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

---

Academic Integrity is a hallmark of Carnegie Mellon University and the INI. We expect all INI students to demonstrate academic integrity at all times throughout our program and require review and acknowledgement of the policy prior to beginning any coursework.

**Familiarize yourself with the University Policy on Academic Integrity**, which is detailed in the [Academic Integrity section](#). This policy includes university expectations around academic integrity and provides definitions of cheating, plagiarism and unauthorized assistance. As part of the INI Graduate Onboarding course, you must complete an academic integrity module and read, sign, and submit the Academic Integrity form to the INI Academic and Student Services team. Infractions that occur in the summer semester prior to matriculation will count as a first offense by the INI.

**The University also recommends that students review the University's Academic Disciplinary Actions procedures.** These procedures outline the process for investigating,

reporting and adjudicating violations of the University Policy on Academic Integrity. The procedures also outline the appeal process.

Review the CMU Policy on Academic Integrity:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/academic-integrity.html>

Review the CMU Academic Disciplinary Actions:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/academic-discipline/index.html>

**EMAIL SIGNED ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FORM TO INI ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SERVICES TEAM:** [ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu)

a particular academic year and may not defer admission. However, exceptions may be made for extraordinary circumstances.

Furthermore, students cannot request a 'Leave of Absence' prior to matriculation, as this is considered a deferral.

## CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS

---

All information provided to students as a result of their application, including subsequent correspondence about financial awards, is considered confidential and should not be communicated to other applicants. Applicants are expected to comply with the confidentiality requirement as a condition of admission.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AWARDS

---

All scholarships and financial awards provided by the INI upon admission are subject to eligibility requirements. Students must remain in good academic standing and adhere to Carnegie Mellon University's policy on Academic Integrity.

If you violate the CMU Policy, you are no longer eligible for the scholarship and/or financial award. No additional scholarship will be posted to your student account for the remainder of your program. If the violation occurs in your final semester, the financial award posted for that semester will be rescinded.

Financial awards are determined based on the duration of the study option and program a student selects upon admission. If there are changes to the duration of the program, funding is subject to change.

## ADMISSION DEFERRALS

---

The INI does not typically allow admission deferrals. Each year, applicants are reviewed and ranked with the current applicant pool. Students are accepted for admission into the degree program and study option for

### III. ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

After accepting the INI's offer of admission, you should create an academic plan for the entire duration of the program and register for courses for the immediate semester.

You should actively engage in this process by reviewing degree requirements and study options on the website, researching courses, connecting with your faculty advisor and contacting the INI Academic and Student Services team. Once plans are firm, you may proceed to register for classes in Student Information Online (SIO).

#### REGISTRATION DEADLINES

To be considered full-time, you must be enrolled or waitlisted for at least 36 units of courses that count towards degree requirements *by the first day of classes each semester*. **You must be registered for at least 36 units by the 10th day of classes to maintain full-time status.**

Registration time is determined by the Registrar's Office. Registration week is notated on the Academic Calendar. Note that if your account balance is greater than \$0.00, a hold will be placed on your registration.

#### PREPARING AN ACADEMIC PLAN

---

##### MANAGING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

**As an INI student, you are solely responsible for managing your academic progression through your degree program.** You are expected to ensure that you are taking the necessary prerequisites and courses to complete your degree requirements on time. Curriculum and degree requirements can be found in [Ch. V Degree Requirements](#).

The INI utilizes Stellic, an online degree audit tool, to track student progress and allow students to plan out

their schedule in advance of registration, allowing for consultation with your advising team. You will access Stellic using your Andrew ID. Your advisor and the INI Academic and Student Services team also have access to your student audit via the Stellic portal.

You should monitor your individual audit each semester to ensure you are progressing as expected. For questions about fulfilled course requirements, contact the INI Academic and Student Services team at [ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu).

If you are not progressing as expected, you must seek advice and counsel from your faculty advisor. If you are concerned that you may be unable to complete degree requirements, contact the INI Academic and Student Services team for assistance.

**Stellic Online Degree Audit Tool:**  
<https://www.cmu.edu/es/stellic/index.html>

#### STUDENT INFORMATION ONLINE (SIO)

SIO is an important online tool to use during the registration process and throughout your graduate program. You can access SIO with your Andrew ID through the CMU HUB website.

Within SIO, you can view and modify your proposed schedule before registering for courses using the Course Planning Module. Once you develop your course schedule, you are responsible for registering for courses using SIO. You must register for every course that you plan to take for the semester, even if not taken for credit (e.g., audited courses).

**Access SIO through the CMU HUB:**  
<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/>

## DEGREE TIMEFRAME

Full-time students are expected to complete their degree requirements within either 16-months (three semesters) for the Standard and Applied study options or 20-months (four semesters) for the Advanced Study and Applied Advanced Study options.

In order to have full-time status, you must enroll in at least 36 units per semester, and up to 51 units per semester (considering the 3-unit Academic & Professional Development Courses). You have the option to enroll in courses during the summer semester; however, this is not mandatory.

If you are in the Applied or Applied Advanced Study options, you can complete the required 3-unit internship in the summer, fall or spring semesters. Please consult with the INI Academic and Student Services team regarding these internship options (international students should also refer to the Office of International Education [OIE] for further guidance).

## EXPECTATIONS FOR PROGRAM START

Attendance from the start of the semester is crucial towards your degree progress. An extended absence, especially at the beginning of your program, will be detrimental.

The INI verifies that all students have arrived to begin their program. A student who is expected to be on campus will be considered “withdrawn from the university” if they are not at CMU by the tenth day of class.

**IMPORTANT:** if any extenuating circumstances prevent you from arriving on campus by the start of the semester, notify the INI Academic and Student Services team immediately by email: [ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu)

## COURSE SEQUENCING

### COURSE AVAILABILITY

Refer to the **Schedule of Classes (SOC)** to determine course availability; course offerings may change even after the semester begins, so please monitor SOC regularly for changes.

Note that the INI cannot guarantee that courses will be offered each semester or in a specific semester. The INI reserves the right to cancel a course that has an enrollment of 10 students or less. In addition, the INI cannot guarantee that you will be offered a seat in a specific course. This applies to courses offered by the INI, as well as other departments at the University.

Refer to the online **Schedule of Classes (SOC)** for course availability: <https://enr-apps.as.cmu.edu/open/SOC/SOCServlet/search>

### COURSE SEQUENCE

You are required to take at least one core course, or prerequisite to a core course, each semester until all core course requirements have been satisfied. Specific details are provided in [Ch. V Degree Requirements](#).

If a core course or an elective course has a prerequisite, you must fulfill it first. If you do not have the prerequisite course or knowledge, then you should consult with the instructor. Instructors have the discretion to decide if a prerequisite course or knowledge can be waived.

**You should NOT take an introductory-level course *after* you have taken a more advanced course on a topic.**

If you select courses out of sequence, then you will not receive a prompt to change your selections. It is critical that you reference the INI's course sequence list prior to the start of each semester to ensure you are following the appropriate sequence. SIO or Stellic will notify you only if a pre-requisite is not met.

List of courses with issues related to course sequence:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

For questions about course sequence, contact the INI Academic and Student Services team: [ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu)

You are responsible for complying with the appropriate course sequence; **not doing so may jeopardize your ability to graduate on time**. If you have any questions or concerns about course sequencing, consult with your faculty advisor prior to enrolling.

For more information, see Course Lists page:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

## COURSE PLACEMENT WITHIN DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Courses taken will be applied to your degree requirements in the following order:

1. Core course
2. Advanced Study option, if not applicable as core course
3. Program elective, if not applicable as course option
4. Extra course that does not count towards degree requirements, if not applicable or needed as a program elective

For example, 14-642: Introduction to Embedded Systems is a popular course that can be considered as a core course for MSIN, MSIS, or MSMITE, program elective for all programs, or as an Advanced Study course for MSIT-IS or MSMITE students electing an Area of Concentration. For programs in which it is considered a core course, 14-642 will be counted towards the core course requirements unless it is approved within the Advanced Study option or another core course that fulfills that same requirement is completed with a higher letter grade.

We encourage you to meet with a member of the INI Academic and Student Services team to review how your courses have been applied to your degree requirements.

## OVERLAPPING COURSES

You will not receive credit towards degree requirements for a course that overlaps in content with another course you have completed. However, every course taken will be factored into your cumulative GPA.

The INI has developed a list of courses that have overlapping content, which can be viewed online at the link below. However, please note that this is not an exhaustive list, as departments add new courses every year.

If you are uncertain whether the courses you plan to take for degree requirements contain overlapping material, it is your responsibility to check with your faculty advisor and **clarify prior to enrolling**.

List of courses that the INI considers having overlapping content:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

For questions about overlapping courses, contact the INI Academic and Student Services team: [ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu)

## COURSE RESTRICTIONS

### NON-COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING COURSE LIMITATIONS

As a College of Engineering student, your course selections should reflect your advanced knowledge of technology. We provide course selection guidelines in [Ch. V Degree Requirements](#).

The INI faculty has vetted and compiled a list of Heinz College courses that satisfy degree requirements for INI

students. To view this list, please visit the INI website at the link below.

Course selections from the Tepper School are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If in doubt of course selections, you should consult with your faculty advisor.

A select few graduate courses cannot be counted towards degree requirements because the course content covers material that is prerequisite knowledge for admission to the INI. Furthermore, questionable courses that are not listed should be discussed with your advisor to determine if the course content is considered prerequisite knowledge that INI students should have studied at the undergraduate level. A list of these types of courses can be found in [Courses Outside of Degree Requirements](#).

List of Heinz College courses that satisfy degree requirements for INI students:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

## UNDERGRADUATE COURSE LIMITATIONS

You are limited to 24 units of undergraduate coursework (courses numbered 300-599) that can be applied towards degree requirements.

Note that if there is an option to take a course at the 300 level or 600+ level, then you must register for the graduate (600+) level course.

## PETITION PROCEDURE

You are required to submit an INI Petition Form for the following reasons:

- independent study
- course substitution considerations for course requirements
- updating approved list of courses under area of concentration (for bicoastal advanced study)
- enrollment above max. number of units

- course substitutions
- change in study option
- any deviation from the policies stated in this handbook

When preparing a petition, you should include specific and valid reasons for submitting the petition. If the petition is about a course, you must include the course syllabus in your petition.

### INI Petition Process:

1. Complete a petition form and submit it to the INI Academic and Student Services team.
2. The INI Academic and Student Services team presents the petition to the INI Academic Advisor Committee at the next weekly meeting.
3. The INI Academic Advisor Committee will approve or deny the petition, with the advice of the INI Director if necessary.
4. The INI Academic and Student Services team informs you of the outcome via email, typically within a week.
5. You may appeal the petition outcome to the INI Director by submitting a new petition addressed to the INI Director. This petition should be submitted [via email](#) *within seven days of the initial decision for consideration*.
6. The INI Academic and Student Services team saves the finalized petition in your file.

**Timing:** You should seek approval for a petition prior to starting the course(s) or project(s) in question.

INI Petition Form: [https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/enrollment\\_docs/ini-petition-form\\_06-2020pdf.pdf](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/enrollment_docs/ini-petition-form_06-2020pdf.pdf)

Submit completed petition forms via email to the INI Academic and Student Services team:  
[ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu).



## RETAKEING A COURSE

---

If you do not pass a core course, you must either retake the course or take a different course that will fulfill the requirement. For example, if an MSIN student does not pass 18-756, they must retake it or take either 14-740 or 14-760.

If your core GPA is lower than 3.0, you may need to retake courses that would help you satisfy this requirement. You may also have to retake a prerequisite course in which you did not receive the minimum grade required.

All grades are recorded on the transcript and factored into the cumulative GPA computation. However, only the new grade is factored into the core GPA computation if the course is a core course.

## COURSES OUTSIDE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

---

You may take up to 12 units per semester outside of your degree requirements. Even if they do not fulfill degree requirements, all academic courses count towards the INI course load, with a maximum of 51 units (including the required Academic and Professional Development course).

Students cannot prioritize a course that does not count towards degree requirements over one that does when finalizing their schedule. Students are required to meet the minimum requirement of completing 36 units towards degree requirements each semester.

Courses that **cannot** satisfy degree requirements include:

- Courses considered as pre-requisites to admission to the INI, such as:
  - 17-683 Data Structures for Application Programmers
  - 17-681 Java for Application Programmers
  - 17-615 Data Structures and Algorithms

- Or any cross-listed version of the courses listed above
- Heinz Courses that are not on the pre-approved list provided on the INI website
- StuCo courses (Student Taught Courses)
- Courses that fall outside of the requirements for your program electives
- Audited courses\*
- Pass/no pass courses\*

*\*Note that academic courses taken pass/no pass or for audit will still count towards your course load for the semester. Auditing and Pass / No Pass courses are described further in the next section.*

Non-academic courses, such as StuCo or physical education classes, are exempt from the 12-unit limit and their units *will not* count towards your course load for the semester.

## AUDITING AND PASS/ NO PASS

---

If you request to complete a course as pass/no pass or audit, you must petition for approval to change the grade option within the first 10 days of classes. If the course has not been approved via petition, the Academic and Student Services team will drop the course from your schedule or, if the drop deadline has passed, apply a withdrawal.

Course Audit and Pass/No Pass forms are available on the HUB website: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>

## AUDITING

Auditing is the act of being present in a classroom without receiving academic credit or a letter grade. An audited course will appear on your transcript and its units will count toward the maximum course load allotted per semester; however, they do not count toward the degree requirements.

Any student may request to audit a course. In order to audit a course, you must register for the course, obtain permission from the instructor, and ask the instructor to sign the **Course Audit Approval form**. Submit this form along with a petition to the INI Academic and Student Services team for approval from the entire advisor committee and the INI Director. If approved, the INI Academic and Student Services team will send the form to The HUB for processing. Once approved, the Course Audit declaration cannot be reversed.

Once you submit a Course Audit Approval form to the HUB, you will be assigned a grade of 'O,' indicating an audit, for the course instead of a letter grade ('A' - 'R'). Note the deadline for submitting an audit form on the academic calendar. After the deadline, you will not be able to request to audit a course.

If you are auditing a course, you are expected to prepare for and attend class as if you are taking the class for a letter grade. Your course instructor will arrange and approve the extent of your participation. Those who do not attend the class regularly or prepare will receive a blank grade.

For billing, an audited course is considered the same as the traditional courses under the tuition charges. If a part-time student audits a course, they will be charged part-time tuition based on the per-unit tuition rate for the course.

### TAKING A COURSE "PASS/NO PASS"

In order to take a course "pass/no pass," you must register for the course and submit the *Pass/No Pass Approval Form*, along with a completed INI petition to your academic committee and the INI Director. If approved, the INI will send the form to The HUB for processing. Once approved, the declaration cannot be reversed.

The units of "pass/no pass" courses count toward the maximum course load units per semester, but do not count toward the degree requirements.

Any student may request to take a course "pass/no pass." Once a Pass/No Pass Approval Form is submitted to the HUB, you will not receive a letter grade ('A' - 'R') for the course. Passing work is recorded as 'P' on the student's academic record; work with a grade lower than 'C' will be recorded as 'N' on the student's academic record. No quality points will be assigned to 'P' or 'N' grades; the units of 'P' or 'N' grades will not be factored into the student's GPA.

Please note the deadline for Pass/No Pass Approval Form submission on the academic calendar. After the deadline, you will not be able to request the option to take a course "pass/no pass".

For billing, the "pass/no pass" course is considered the same as the traditional courses under the tuition charges. If a part-time student takes a course as "pass/no pass," they will be charged part-time tuition based on the per-unit tuition rate for the course.

Course Audit Approval and Pass/No Pass Approval forms are available on the HUB website:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

You may transfer up to 24 units of courses\* taken at another university to count as electives. In order to count as an elective, the course must:

- fulfill an INI graduate program requirement
- be a graduate-level course at the university where it was taken
- not have been used to fulfill requirements for any previously earned degree

To transfer a course, you must have received a grade of 'B' or better. All transfer credits must be approved by the INI and the College of Engineering Dean's Office. The INI will determine how the transferred credits will be reflected in your degree requirements. The transfer

credits will appear on your transcript as an INI elective and are not factored into the core or cumulative GPAs.

In order for your transfer credit to be approved by the INI and the College of Engineering Dean's Office, you must have satisfactorily completed at least 36 units of graduate courses at Carnegie Mellon University. We cannot grant you transfer credit prior to admission to your graduate program. After matriculating to CMU, you should consult with your advisor before taking a course at another university.

You should submit an **INI petition**, along with an official transcript and the course syllabus from the semester in which the course was completed, to the INI Academic and Student Services team.

You may be required to show proof that the course(s) you want to transfer were not used to fulfill requirements for any previously earned degree. In addition, you must complete the **Graduate Transfer Credit Request Form**, located with the College of Engineering graduate student policies. The INI will forward the appropriate information to the Dean's Office for approval on your behalf.

*(\*This policy may differ for the Integrated Program. Please refer to [Accelerated Program](#) for more information specific to Integrated Program students.)*

University Policy on Transfer Credit Evaluation and Assignment:

<https://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/registration/transfer-transcripts.html>

College of Engineering Graduate Transfer Credit Request Form:

<https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic-policies/graduate-policies/registration-grading-credit.html#transfer-credit-&-special-students>

Information About INI Petitions:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/>

## PITTSBURGH COUNCIL ON HIGHER EDUCATION (PCHE) CROSS-REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Carnegie Mellon University offers students the opportunity to take courses for credit through a cross-registration program, Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE).

See [Ch. X-D Transfer Courses & PCHE](#) for more details about PCHE.

PCHE Registration:

<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/registration/cross/>.

## INDEPENDENT STUDY

Please refer to [Appendix B: Independent Study](#).

## REGISTERING FOR COURSES

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The INI adheres to the University's academic calendar, which provides information on all deadlines including registration dates, class start dates, add/drop deadlines, exam dates and more.

Note that the Heinz College and the Tepper School follow their own calendars, with dates that differ from the University's calendar for add, drop, and pass/no pass/audit deadlines. You must adhere to these deadlines if you are taking courses from these colleges.

CMU Academic Calendar:

<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/calendar/index.html>

The Heinz College's Calendar:

<http://www.heinz.cmu.edu/academic-resources/academic-calendar/index.aspx>

The Tepper School's Calendar: <http://tepper.cmu.edu/>

## COURSE LOAD

You must register for at least 36 units per semester to be considered full-time. In order to make adequate progress towards your degree, you are required to take a minimum of 36 units towards degree requirements each semester, excluding summer. **Full-time students are not permitted to drop below full-time course load (less than 36 units) in any semester other than summer.**

You can take a maximum of 51 units per semester (including the required 3-unit Academic & Professional Development courses); *physical education and StuCo courses do not count towards your course load*. If you enroll in over the maximum number of allotted units without an approved petition, the Academic and Student Services team will randomly remove a course (or courses) from your schedule after the 10th day of classes (excluding mini-2/mini-4 course work) to revert your course load to no more than 48 units, or 51 units when taking APD. See section below on "Overloading" for further guidance.

**Physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the 48-unit maximum, or 51-unit maximum when taking an APD course.** The INI Academic and Student Services team will remove any course that exceeds the 12-unit maximum per semester for courses that fall in this category.

As a full-time INI student, you are expected to complete your degree requirements in 16 months (3 semesters) if you are in the Standard or Applied study options, or 20 months (4 semesters) if you are in the Advanced Study or Applied Advanced Study options.

### Special Circumstances

If you have been approved for any alternative degree timeframe or course load adjustments, you may be required to follow special conditions that may further limit your course load in a given semester.

It's important to be aware of and comply with approved timeframe and course load adjustments made in special circumstances. Neglecting to do so may jeopardize your ability to graduate.

Add, Drop and View course status in SIO:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/hub/sio/about.html>

## ADDING COURSES

Consult with your faculty advisor before adding or dropping courses to ensure your academic plan will not be jeopardized.

**Register for courses through SIO.** You have the option of adding courses to your schedule from the time of your assigned registration up until the semester's add deadline.

## DROPPING COURSES

Consult with your advisor before adding or dropping courses to ensure your course plan will not be jeopardized. Through SIO, you can drop courses from your schedule from the time of your assigned registration until the drop deadline in the semester.

**If you decide to drop a course, please do so as soon as possible within the first 10 days of class.** By doing so, you enable a waitlisted student to be enrolled and help to limit disruption to any team-based projects.

It is important to drop courses by the drop deadline so that the course(s) will be removed from your student record. If you do not drop a course by the drop deadline, you have the option to withdraw from the course, which will result in receiving a 'W' on your transcript.

Additionally, you have the option to utilize one drop voucher per year of study. If the drop deadline has passed, you can petition to use your drop voucher up until the last day of class. **If you neither drop nor**

**withdraw from a course on time, a letter grade will be assigned based on work completed.**

You are responsible for the tuition charge for any course dropped after the add/drop deadline to receive tuition adjustment.

*You are responsible for maintaining your degree progress and full-time status. If dropping a course jeopardizes either, you must consult with the INI Academic and Student Services team first.*

## COURSES WITH RESTRICTED ENROLLMENT

Faculty members may set a limit on the number of students permitted to enroll in their courses. If the number of pre-registered students for a course exceeds the class size, as specified by the course instructor, all other students will be put on the waitlist and enrolled as space becomes available.

## WAITLISTS

It is common to be waitlisted for a course, from the time of registration until the 10<sup>th</sup> day of class. This ensures that students within the course's department have the opportunity to take the courses they need. The INI secures an allotment of seats in certain core courses offered by other departments, but they are reserved for those who need the course to graduate and then opened up on a first-come, first-serve basis if space permits. Note that departments determine how their waitlists are managed, so there can be other considerations aside from department affiliation and order of the waitlist.

In order to ensure assignments and important information are not missed, you should attend courses for which you have been waitlisted until your enrollment in the course has been finalized. You can only be waitlisted for a maximum of five courses.

Check your schedule frequently on SIO as you may be enrolled into a waitlisted course without notification.

In addition, during the registration process, the Registrar's Office will require students to "tag up" on their waitlist in order to confirm the desire to remain on the waitlist for a course.

## OVERLOADING

In order to overload, you must submit a petition and have it approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of classes. If a petition has not been approved by the 10<sup>th</sup> day, Academic and Student Services team will revert your course load to the course load limit of 48 units, or 51 units if taking APD 1 or 2, by randomly removing a course from your schedule.

The Academic and Student Services team completes an audit following the Add deadline. If the team identifies an overload on your schedule after this deadline, you will need to withdraw from the course and a "W" will appear on your final transcript if it is after the drop deadline.

## SUMMER COURSES

You have the option to complete courses during the summer semester. Summer courses, if taken are charged additional tuition at the per unit rate (see [Ch. IX Tuition & Fees](#) for more information).

## PROGRAM TRANSFER & STUDY OPTION CHANGE PROCEDURES

---

### PROGRAM TRANSFERS

Program transfers are strongly discouraged and only approved by the INI in rare circumstances.

If you wish to transfer from one INI program to another, you must discuss this with your faculty advisor first. Only after meeting with your advisor should you initiate a transfer request by submitting a petition with a compelling reason for the transfer.

Program transfer requests should be made as early as possible, so that you can successfully fulfill the

appropriate sequence of courses and satisfy your degree requirements. A late transfer request could result in a longer program duration in addition to tuition ramifications. The INI will make a decision after an academic performance evaluation of your first semester. Financial aid and scholarships are awarded based on admission to a particular program and may not be transferable.

## CHANGING STUDY OPTIONS

Study option changes are strongly discouraged. In rare circumstances, a study option change may be considered.

The student must submit a petition for the change. If approved, the change will be formally made in your student record, and you will be expected to complete your degree requirements under the new study option approved by the petition.

Please note that there are special considerations, such as funding implications, when requesting a change of study option, particularly when such a change involves altering your timeframe for degree completion.

*International students should refer to [Ch. VI International Students](#) for further details regarding program transfers.*

Information regarding INI petitions:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/>

## FINAL EXAMS

All INI students must attend final exams as scheduled by the university and individual course instructors. If you believe that a final exam presents a scheduling conflict, you should discuss the issue with the course instructor.

The INI does not have control over the university exam schedule. Please keep this in mind when arranging travel at the end of a semester; having purchased airline tickets

is not considered a proper excuse for missing a final exam.

## RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR)

The Office of Research Integrity and Compliance website describes the university's position on ethical research:

*"Carnegie Mellon University promotes the responsible conduct of research through high standards of ethics and accountability in planning, conducting and reporting research. The responsible conduct of research is demonstrated through behavior that meets generally accepted standards. These standards are set forth by state and federal regulations, institutional policies, professional codes of conduct and personal convictions."*

In support of the university's position, the INI requires all incoming students to take the appropriate online training offered by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). If you fail to complete this training before arriving for the fall semester, you will be required to take the training during Orientation, as coordinated by the INI staff.

Visit the CITI website at the link below to access the appropriate online training courses. **Select "Carnegie Mellon University" as your participating institution when you create your account.**

The College of Engineering Graduate Student Policy recommends the CITI physical science module package for College of Engineering graduate students, rather than the module package for engineers, although both modules are acceptable.

This topic is described in full by the College of Engineering Graduate Student Policy at the link below.

Visit CITI's website to access the appropriate online training courses: <https://www.citiprogram.org/>



College of Engineering Graduate Student Policies:

<https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic-policies/graduate-policies/index.html>

## RA / TA POSITIONS

---

As a research institution, CMU offers many research assistant (RA) and teaching assistant (TA) opportunities for our students. INI students have the option to apply to faculty for RA or TA positions upon arrival to the INI. Throughout the onboarding process, students can learn more about how to apply for one of these positions and what these roles entail. The INI Business Operations Office and the INI Academic and Student Services team will provide more information on the RA and TA process to each candidate individually.

Please note that in addition to completing the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training described in the previous section, RAs may be required to complete additional training at the discretion of their supervisor.

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

Some INI courses require student Teaching Assistants (TA). Graduate students are required to have a certain level of fluency in English before they can instruct in Pennsylvania, as required by the English Fluency in Higher Education Act of 1990. Through this Act, all institutions of higher education in the state are required to evaluate and certify the English fluency of all instructional personnel, including teaching assistants and interns. TAs and RAs must be located in the U.S. Specific location requirements and job description details will be provided during the hiring process.

TAs for INI courses must be in good academic standing, which means having a core and cumulative GPAs of at least 3.0. Additionally, TAs must not have any violations of the Carnegie Mellon University Policy on Academic Integrity on their record.

The INI Business Operations Office will communicate more information about the TA approval and other policies and procedures to each TA individually.

RA and TA positions may be available with other departments. Students who fulfill these positions should follow the guidelines of the department in which the position resides.

For the full university policy on English fluency for instructional personnel, go to:

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/faculty/evaluation-certification-english-fluency-instructors.html>

## EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

If you are a TA/RA or are planning to have a position with CMU, then Employment Eligibility Verification is Required.

For instructions and more details, see [Ch. X University Policies](#).

## ENROLLMENT VERIFICATIONS / TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

---

The HUB is the primary contact for students or alumni who would like to request a transcript, enrollment verification or other information related to their time at the INI.

The INI may verify some limited information in the form of a letter. This may be suitable for select purposes, such as verifying skills students acquired through the INI programs.

For a complete understanding of what the INI can verify and/or which department can verify specific information, please visit the INI website at the link below.

INI guide to transcript requests and verifications:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/transcript.html>

Additional information about transcripts and verifications is available via the HUB at:

<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/student-records/verifications/index.html>

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

---

Notify the INI and The HUB of all address changes in a timely manner. You are responsible for any failure to receive official college notices due to not having a correct address on file. F-1 students may jeopardize their status if address information is not kept current.

*You can update your address through SIO.*

## DEGREE CERTIFICATION

---

You must satisfy all degree requirements and achieve a minimum core and cumulative GPA of 3.0 in order to be eligible for degree certification. Your academic advisor and the INI Director must approve the degree certification as well.

In order to receive a diploma, your student account must have a balance of \$0.00.

*Prior to graduation, you should update your contact information in SIO, such as your mailing address and non-Andrew email address. You should also review a proxy of your diploma in SIO to verify the accuracy of the information displayed there, such as the spelling of your name.*

## IV. ACADEMIC STANDARDS

This section describes policies and procedures for grading, academic performance and academic integrity.

### GRADING STANDARDS

---

#### UNIVERSITY GRADING STANDARDS

This policy offers details concerning the university's grading principles for students taking courses. It covers the specifics of assigning and changing grades, process for incomplete grades, grading options, drop/withdrawals and course repeats. It also outlines the undergraduate and graduate grading standards.

#### COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING GRADING STANDARDS

The letter grade scale is 'A' (highest), 'A-', 'B+', 'B', 'B-', 'C+', 'C', 'C-', 'D+', 'D' and 'R' (lowest). Engineering students cannot receive an 'A+' grade on their transcript, even if a course is taken from another college where 'A+' is given.

#### Grades lower than C:

Grades lower than 'C' are considered failure in the College of Engineering and will not count towards degree requirements.

#### "W" grades:

'W' grades are assigned if students withdraw from a course by the withdrawal deadline. While 'W' grades do not affect a student's GPA, they will appear on the student's transcript.

#### REVIEW GRADING STANDARDS POLICIES:

Carnegie Mellon University's Grading Policy:

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/grading.html>

The College of Engineering's Grading Policy:

<https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic-policies/graduate-policies/registration-grading-credit.html#transfer-credit-&-special-students>

### ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

---

#### GRADE POINT AVERAGE

In order to graduate, you must have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 for both:

- Core GPA (average of all core course units taken)
- Cumulative GPA (average of all units taken)

Course work or graduate project units with a grade lower than 'C' will not be considered towards graduate degree requirements; however, they will be calculated into your cumulative GPA.

#### ACADEMIC STANDING

You are in "good academic standing" if you have a core GPA and cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 or above. You will receive a warning letter for a GPA lower than 3.0 in the most recently completed semester. However, you will remain in good academic standing if core and cumulative GPAs meet the minimum requirement. If you are not in good academic standing, it is your responsibility to consult with your faculty advisor in a timely manner.

#### ACADEMIC PROBATION

You may be placed on academic probation if you do not meet minimum performance criteria. The purpose of academic probation is to provide you with the additional support and assistance necessary for adequate progress towards degree requirements.

The INI Academic and Student Services team reviews each student's academic performance and progress throughout the semester, including at 10<sup>th</sup> day of classes, mid-semester and end of semester. If you are not

enrolled in and successfully completing 36 units towards degree requirements each semester (excluding summer), the INI may place you on academic probation until your performance in the program adheres with our stated course load policy.

Additionally, at the end of each semester, the INI Academic and Student Services team completes a review of each student's performance. GPA for academic review is computed based on the guidelines for graduation requirements. If you have any non-passing grade in a course counting towards your degree requirements or have a core and/or cumulative GPA of less than 3.0, you will be immediately placed on academic probation.

If you are notified that you are on academic probation, it is your responsibility to schedule a meeting with your faculty advisor within 14 days. During the meeting, you and your advisor must sign the letter and return it to the INI Director's Office within that 14-day timeframe.

**Students on academic probation may be subject to the following penalties:**

- May have any existing INI scholarships and/or financial awards awarded by the INI rescinded
- Cannot be selected to receive awards, fellowships or scholarships
- May not formally represent INI as an officer or other position in a student club or campus organization

You will be removed from academic probation during the next end-of-semester academic review if your core and cumulative GPAs are 3.0 or higher at that time. Your scholarship or financial award will be reinstated for future semesters if you are removed from probation; however, the amount that was rescinded will not be reapplied to your account.

You may be permanently dropped from the INI if your core or cumulative GPA remains lower than 3.0 at the end of two consecutive full semesters. You will have an opportunity to appeal if this occurs. The first appeal must go to the Dean of the College of Engineering's office.

**Please review a detailed summary of the graduate student appeals process (see link below).**

Courses that negatively affect the core GPA cannot be moved from the core requirement unless another completed course can replace the course with the lower grade.

**Graduate Student Appeal Process:**

<http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/policies/appeal-grievance-procedures.html>

**Review the College of Engineering's academic standards policy:**

<http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/schools-colleges/collegeofengineering/#academicstandardstextcontainer>

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

---

Students at Carnegie Mellon University are engaged in intellectual activity consistent with the highest standards of the academy. The relationship between students and instructors and their shared commitment to overarching standards of respect, honor and transparency determine the integrity of our community of scholars. The actions of our students, faculty and staff are a representation of our university community and of the professional and personal communities that we lead. Therefore, a deep and abiding commitment to academic integrity is fundamental to a Carnegie Mellon education. Honesty and good faith, clarity in the communication of core values, professional conduct of work, mutual trust and respect, and fairness and exemplary behavior represent the expectations for ethical behavior for all members of the Carnegie Mellon community.

The INI adheres to Carnegie Mellon University's Policy on Academic Integrity. The policy includes the University expectations around academic integrity and provides definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized assistance.

A review of the University's Academic Disciplinary Actions procedures is also recommended. These procedures outline the process for investigating, reporting, and adjudicating violations of the University Policy on Academic Integrity, in addition to the appeal process.

*You are responsible for reviewing and understanding the University Policies below:*

#### REVIEW THE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS POLICIES:

University Policy on Academic Integrity:

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/academic-integrity.html>

University Academic Disciplinary Actions procedures:

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/academic-discipline/index.html>

The INI may recommend additional sanctions beyond course-level action.

If you commit a second violation, the INI will drop the student from the INI and recommend expulsion from the university to the Academic Review Board.

*Review details related to the academic integrity policy and the appeal process, below.*

#### REVIEW THE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY AND APPEAL PROCESS:

Academic Integrity Policy and Appeal Process:

<http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity/headernav/policies.html>

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATION

When the INI is notified that you have committed a violation of the Carnegie Mellon University Policy on Academic Integrity, you will be subject to course-level action imposed by the instructor.

Additionally, the INI will send you a notice of eligibility outlining the following: you will no longer be eligible for financial awards and/or scholarships awarded by the INI (per [Scholarships and Financial Awards](#)), Teaching Assistant positions (per [RA / TA Positions](#)), and metacurricular opportunities (per [Ch. VII Metacurricular Opportunities](#)). No additional scholarship will be posted to your student account for the remainder of your program. Please note that if the violation occurs during the student's final semester, the financial award for the final semester will be rescinded.

In accordance with university policy, you will not be permitted to drop the course in which your academic integrity violation occurred in order to avoid penalty.

## V. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

### OVERVIEW

This chapter outlines the degree requirements for the INI's degree programs:

- M.S. in Information Networking (**MSIN**)
- M.S. in Information Security (**MSIS**)
- Bicoastal M.S. in Information Technology-Information Security (**MSIT-IS**)
- Bicoastal M.S. in Mobile and IoT Engineering (**MSMITE**)
- M.S. in Artificial Intelligence Engineering – Information Security (**MSAIE-IS**) – *launched in Fall 2022*

Degree requirements for each program are provided in further detail in the subsequent sections.

**Disclaimer:** The INI cannot guarantee that courses will be offered each semester or in a specific semester. Students must refer to the 'Schedule of Classes' to determine course availability. The INI cannot guarantee that a student will be offered a seat in a specific course. These apply to courses at the INI as well as other departments at Carnegie Mellon. In addition, it is the sole responsibility of the student to read and understand the following information regarding this program and its requirements. Should an individual have any further questions, they are encouraged to contact INI Academic and Student Services team at [ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu) for assistance.

*Please visit the INI website for the program descriptions, curricula, course descriptions and other details for all programs (see link below).*

INI Program and Curriculum Descriptions:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/>

### STUDY OPTIONS

Within your degree program, you must select to pursue one of four study options. Your curricular requirements and program duration will depend on which study option you choose.

All students **must** declare their study option upon admission into the degree program.

The table below lists the key features for each study option, which are described in further detail in this chapter:

Study Option	# Semesters	# Units	Required Internship?
STANDARD	3	123	No
APPLIED	3	129	Yes
ADVANCED	4	159	No
APPLIED ADVANCED	4	165	Yes

#### STANDARD

Students who elect the Standard option will not complete an internship as part of their 3-semester program.

#### APPLIED

Students who elect the Applied or Applied Advanced Study options are required to complete APD 2 (3 units) and an internship (3 units). (See [Appendix D](#) for more details.)



## ADVANCED STUDY

Students who elect the Advanced Study and Applied Advanced Study options complete their degrees in four semesters (instead of the standard three) and elect to complete one of the following:

- **Master's Thesis:** A traditional master's thesis will allow you to delve deeply into a problem and create a solution for a research-based project, offering you the opportunity to gain significant knowledge and skills in a particular area (see [Appendix C](#) for more details).
- **Master's Project [MSIN/MSIS/MSAIE-IS only]:** This development-based project allows you to build up knowledge and skills in delivering successful solutions for industry. Culminates in a technical report (see [Appendix C](#) for more details).
- **Area of Concentration [MSIT-IS/MSMITE only]:** Specialize your skills and gain in-depth knowledge by pursuing a set of courses in a specific area.

Advanced Study students will declare their curriculum option choice via the **Advanced Study Declaration form** after their first semester.

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

You must complete all required units of core courses specific to your degree program; core courses may not be waived or substituted. In addition, all students are required to take at least one core course or prerequisite to a core course each semester until all core course requirements have been satisfied.

You must also complete program electives and the Academic and Professional Development (APD) course(s) as required by your specific degree program and study option. Depending on which degree / study option you choose, you may also be required to complete an internship and/or master's thesis, master's project (MSIN, MSIS and MSAIE-IS students only) or additional

coursework in an area of concentration (bicoastal students only).

## M.S. INFORMATION NETWORKING (MSIN)

The MSIN degree provides an advanced, specialized curriculum combining computer science, electrical and computer engineering, software engineering, and information systems that incorporates business and policy perspectives.

MSIN Curriculum:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

## CORE COURSES

The MSIN program requires 72 units of core courses that may not be waived or substituted. Students are required to take at least one core course or prerequisite to a core course each semester until all core course requirements have been satisfied.

## PROGRAM ELECTIVES

Program electives allow you to pursue a wide range of courses in which you have a special interest.

When selecting program electives, you should choose courses that complement the core curriculum. Note that you cannot take program electives as pass/no pass or for audit, and you can only take up to 24 units of undergraduate courses (300-599) towards degree requirements (and only within program elective course requirements).

You may fulfill the 48 units of program electives with courses in the INI, Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Computer Science (CS), Engineering & Public Policy (EPP), Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) or Integrated Innovation Institute (III), and/or approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School.

The list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students can be found on the website:

List of Approved Heinz College Courses:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

*\*Some exceptions apply. Please see [Courses Outside Degree Requirements](#) for courses that cannot count towards degree requirements.*

COURSE LOAD LIMIT

There is a 51-unit maximum course load per semester. This includes research units and any courses taken as pass/no pass or audit, and the 3-unit Academic and Professional Development courses. In semesters that students are not enrolled in an APD course, the maximum course load is 48 units.

Non-academic courses, such as physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the course load maximum. You can take up to 12 units of non-academic courses that fall in these categories each semester.

If you were approved for an alternate course load or degree completion time frame, please review the information in [Registering for Courses](#).

MSIN STUDY OPTIONS

All MSIN candidates must declare their study option upon admission into the degree program.

The study options for the MSIN program are as follows:

MSIN Standard Option

The MSIN Standard option is 123 units of course work completed in three semesters without a required internship.

MSIN STANDARD OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I	3 units

MSIN Applied Option

The MSIN Applied option is 129 units of course work completed in three semesters and includes a required 3-unit internship.

MSIN APPLIED OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Internship	3 units

*More information regarding the internship requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).*

MSIN Advanced Study Option

The MSIN Advanced Study option is 159 units of course work completed in four semesters without a required internship.

#### MSIN ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I	3 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Master's Project]	36 units

The MSIN Advanced Study option allows you to shape your degree according to your interests and career path by completing one of the following:

- **Master's Thesis:** Delve deeply into a problem and create a solution for a research-based project, gaining significant knowledge and skills in a particular area.
- **Master's Project:** This development-based project will allow you to build up knowledge and skills in delivering successful solutions for industry.

You will declare which option you want to pursue via the **Advanced Study Declaration form** after your first semester.

Whether you elect to complete a master's thesis or master's project, you must adhere to the timeline and complete the actions listed in [Appendix C](#).

Submit a Petition: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/index.html>

#### MSIN Applied Advanced Study Option

The MSIN Applied Advanced Study option is 165 units of course work completed in four semesters and includes a required 3-unit internship.

#### MSIN APPLIED ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Internship	3 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Master's Project]	36 units

*More information regarding the internship requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).*

As with the Advanced Study option, the Applied Advanced Study option allows you to shape your degree according to your interests and career path by completing one of the following options: a master's thesis or master's project (see *MSIN Advanced Study Option* section for more details).

Students completing the MSIN Applied Advanced Study option are also required to complete an internship.

#### M.S. INFORMATION SECURITY (MSIS)

The Master of Science in Information Security (MSIS) program offers a technical focus in security and computer systems that combines business and policy perspectives.

MSIS Curriculum: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

CORE COURSES

The MSIS program requires 72 units of core courses that may not be waived or substituted. Students are required to take at least one core course or prerequisite to a core course each semester until all core course requirements have been satisfied.

PROGRAM ELECTIVES

Program electives allow you to pursue a wide range of courses in which you have a special interest.

When selecting program electives, you should choose courses that complement the core curriculum. Note that you cannot take program electives as pass/no pass or for audit, and you can only take up to 24 units of undergraduate courses (300-599) towards degree requirements (and only within program elective course requirements).

You may fulfill the 48 units of program electives with courses in the INI, Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Computer Science (CS), Engineering & Public Policy (EPP), Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) or Integrated Innovation Institute (III), and/or approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School.

The list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students can be found on the website:

List of Approved Heinz College Courses:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

*\*Some exceptions apply. Please see [Courses Outside Degree Requirements](#) for courses that cannot count towards degree requirements.*

COURSE LOAD LIMIT

There is a 51-unit maximum course load per semester. This includes research units and any courses taken as pass/no pass or audit, and the 3-unit Academic and

Professional Development courses. In semesters that students are not enrolled in an APD course, the maximum course load is 48 units.

Non-academic courses, such as physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the course load maximum. You can take up to 12 units of non-academic courses that fall in these categories each semester.

If you were approved for an alternate course load or degree completion time frame, please review the information in the [Registering for Courses](#).

MSIS STUDY OPTIONS

All MSIS candidates must declare their study option upon admission into the degree program.

The Study Options for the MSIS program are as follows:

MSIS Standard Option

The MSIS Standard option is 123 units of course work completed in three semesters without a required internship.

MSIS STANDARD OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I	3 units

MSIS Applied Option

The MSIS Applied option is 129 units of course work completed in three semesters, including a required 3-unit internship.

#### MSIS APPLIED OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Internship	3 units

*More information regarding the internship requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).*

#### MSIS Advanced Study Option

The MSIS Advanced Study option is 159 units of course work completed in four semesters without a required internship.

#### MSIS ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I	3 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Master's Project]	36 units

The MSIS Advanced Study option allow you to shape your degree according to your interests and career path by choosing one of the following:

- **Master's Thesis:** Delve deeply into a problem and create a solution for a research-based project, gaining significant knowledge and skills in a particular area.

- **Master's Project:** A development-based project that will allow you to build up knowledge and skills in delivering successful solutions for industry.

You will declare which option you want to pursue via the **Advanced Study Declaration form** after your first semester.

Whether you elect to complete a master's thesis or master's project, you must adhere to the timeline and complete the actions listed in [Appendix C](#).

Submit a Petition: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/index.html>

#### MSIS Applied Advanced Study Option

The MSIS Applied Advanced option is 165 units of course work completed in four semesters and includes a 3-unit internship.

#### MSIS APPLIED ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	48 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Internship	3 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Master's Project]	36 units

*More information regarding the internship requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).*

As with the Advanced Study option, the Applied Advanced Study option allows you to shape your degree

according to your interests and career path by choosing one of the following options: a master's thesis or master's project (see *MSIS Advanced Study Option* section for more details).

## BICOASTAL PROGRAMS: MSIT-IS AND MSMITE

Students in the bicoastal degree programs divide their studies between Carnegie Mellon's Pittsburgh and Silicon Valley campuses.

The INI offers two degrees through bicoastal delivery:

- M.S. in Mobile and IoT Engineering (MSMITE)
- M.S. in Information Technology-Information Security (MSIT-IS)

Explore the curricula for each program through the links below:

Bicoastal Curriculum Pages:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

## CORE COURSES

Students in the MSIT-IS and MSMITE programs must take 72 units of core courses that may not be waived or substituted. Students are required to take at least one core course or prerequisite to a core course each semester until all core course requirements have been satisfied.

## PROGRAM ELECTIVES

Program electives allow you to pursue a wide range of courses in which you have a special interest. When selecting program electives, you should choose courses that complement the core curriculum. Note that you cannot take program electives as pass/no pass or for audit, and you can only take up to 24 units of undergraduate courses (300-599) towards degree

requirements (and only within program elective course requirements).

You may fulfill the 24 units of program electives with courses in the INI, Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Computer Science (CS), Engineering & Public Policy (EPP), Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) or Integrated Innovation Institute (III), and/or approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School.

The list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students can be found on the website:

List of Approved Heinz College Courses:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

*\*Some exceptions apply. Please see [Courses Outside Degree Requirements](#) for courses that cannot count towards degree requirements.*

## CALIFORNIA BPPE SCHOOL CATALOG

Per the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009, the INI is required to provide bicoastal students with a school catalog, as these programs partially take place in California.

All bicoastal students will be required to sign and submit an Enrollment Agreement (EA) and School Performance Fact Sheet (SPFS) prior to the beginning of any semester of study on the Silicon Valley Campus. EA and SPFS are specific to the program degree and study option and will be updated each semester to reflect current program and tuition data. You MUST complete the SPFS and EA forms assigned based on your program and study option in order to complete your enrollment. Instructions for signing and submitting these documents will be provided to you via email.

BPPE School Catalog for Bicoastal Students:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/bicoastal/bppeact.html>



BICOASTAL RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT

As part of the bicoastal degree, you must fulfill a residency requirement for one semester in which you are enrolled at CMU Silicon Valley.

You begin your program in Pittsburgh and transition to Silicon Valley to complete degree requirements. Residency is defined as being physically present on the Silicon Valley campus and physically attending classes.

International students should abide by the most up-to-date guidelines from the CMU OIE website (<https://www.cmu.edu/oie/>), as well as refer to [Ch. VI International Students](#) for more detailed guidance.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:** If you receive a request to verify your attendance, please refer directly to OIE before formally submitting verification. For more information on frequently asked questions, please follow OIE guidelines: <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/faq/>

PRACTICUM

MSMITE and MSIT-IS students must complete the 24-unit practicum while at the Silicon Valley campus during the fall semester.

You will be assigned to a project based on your background skills and project preferences. The course’s overall goal is to provide experience working as a team on a technical, real-world problem while incorporating a variety of technical and non-technical skills in supporting the project and team.

Each practicum has an industry, academic, or government sponsor, but does not involve employment with the sponsoring organization. You cannot drop the course or switch teams once assigned.

COURSE LOAD LIMIT

There is a 51-unit maximum course load per semester. This includes research units and any courses taken as

pass/no pass or audit, and the 3-unit Academic and Professional Development courses. In semesters that students are not enrolled in an APD course, the maximum course load is 48 units.

Non-academic courses, such as physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the course load maximum. You can take up to 12 units of non-academic courses that fall in these categories each semester.

If you were approved for an alternate course load or degree completion time frame, please review the information in the [Registering for Courses](#).

MSIT-IS / MSMITE STUDY OPTIONS

Each MSIT-IS and MSMITE candidate must declare their study option at the start of their degree program.

Bicoastal Standard Option

The Standard option for MSIT-IS and MSMITE students is 123 units of course work completed in three semesters without a required internship.

BICOASTAL STANDARD OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	24 units
Practicum	24 units
Academic & Professional Development I	3 units

Bicoastal Applied Option

The Applied option for MSIT-IS and MSMITE students is 129 units of course work completed in three semesters.

#### BICOASTAL APPLIED OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	24 units
Practicum	24 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Internship	3 units

Students pursuing the Applied study option are required to complete an internship. *Further information regarding this requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).*

#### Bicoastal Advanced Study Option

The Advanced Study option for MSIT-IS and MSMITE students is 159 units of course work completed in four semesters without a required internship.

#### BICOASTAL ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	24 units
Practicum	24 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Area of Concentration]	36 units

The Advanced Study option allows you to shape your degree according to your interests and career path by choosing one of the following:

- **Master's Thesis:** Delve deeply into a problem and create a novel solution for a research-based project, gaining significant knowledge and skills in a particular area.
- **Area of Concentration:** Specialize your skills and gain in-depth knowledge by pursuing a set of courses in a specific area.

You will declare which option you want to pursue via the Advanced Study Declaration form after your first semester.

If you elect to complete a master's thesis, you must adhere to the timeline and complete the actions listed in [Appendix C](#).

#### Bicoastal Applied Advanced Study Option

The Applied Advanced option for MSIT-IS and MSMITE students is 165 units of course work completed in four semesters and includes a required 3-unit internship.

#### BICOASTAL APPLIED ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	72 units
Program Electives	24 units
Practicum	24 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Internship	3 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Area of Concentration]	36 units

Further information regarding the internship requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).

As with the Advanced Study option, the Applied Advanced Study option allows you to shape your degree according to your interests and career path by choosing one of the following options: a master's thesis or area of concentration (see the *Bicoastal Advanced Study Option* section for more details).

## M.S. IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ENGINEERING – INFORMATION SECURITY (MSAIE-IS)

---

The Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence Engineering - Information Security (MSAIE-IS) students will gain a deep understanding of AI methods, systems, tool chains and cross-cutting issues, including security, privacy and other ethical, societal and policy challenges. Students will apply AI to the design and implementation of information security systems, including networks, software and services.

The INI MSAIE-IS program is part of a college-wide initiative focusing on artificial intelligence)

### MSAIE-IS Curriculum:

[https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msaie-is/curriculum\\_ms34.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msaie-is/curriculum_ms34.html)

### College of Engineering MS in AI Engineering:

<https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/graduate-programs/ai/index.html>

## CORE COURSES

The MSAIE-IS program requires 96 units of core courses that may not be waived or substituted. Students are required to take at least one core course or prerequisite to a core course each semester until all core course requirements have been satisfied.

## PROGRAM ELECTIVES

Program electives allow you to pursue a wide range of courses in which you have a special interest.

When selecting program electives, you should choose courses that complement the core curriculum. Note that you cannot take program electives as pass/no pass or for audit, and you can only take up to 24 units of undergraduate courses (300-599) towards degree requirements (and only within program elective course requirements).

You may fulfill the 24 units of program electives with courses in the INI, Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Computer Science (CS), Engineering & Public Policy (EPP), Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) or Integrated Innovation Institute (III), and/or approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School. Some exceptions apply.

The list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students can be found on the website:

### List of Approved Heinz College Courses:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

*\*Some exceptions apply. Please see [Courses Outside Degree Requirements](#) for courses that cannot count towards degree requirements.*

## COURSE LOAD LIMIT

There is a 51-unit maximum course load per semester. This includes research units and any courses taken as pass/no pass or audit, and the 3-unit Academic and Professional Development courses. In semesters that students are not enrolled in an APD course, the maximum course load is 48 units.

Non-academic courses, such as physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the course load

maximum. You can take up to 12 units of non-academic courses that fall in these categories each semester.

If you were approved for an alternate course load or degree completion time frame, please review the information in the [Registering for Courses](#).

### MSAIE-IS STUDY OPTIONS

All MSAIE-IS candidates must declare their study option upon admission into the degree program.

The Study Options for the MSAIE-IS program are as follows:

#### MSAIE-IS Standard Option

The MSAIE-IS Standard option is 123 units of course work completed in three semesters without a required internship.

MSAIE-IS STANDARD OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	96 units
Program Electives	24 units
Academic & Professional Development I	3 units

#### MSAIE-IS Applied Option

The MSAIE-IS Applied option is 129 units of course work completed in three semesters, including a required 3-unit internship.

MSAIE-IS APPLIED OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	96 units
Program Electives	24 units

Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
---	---------

Internship	3 units
------------	---------

*More information regarding the internship requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).*

#### MSAIE-IS Advanced Study Option

The MSAIE-IS Advanced Study option is 159 units of course work completed in four semesters without a required internship.

MSAIE-IS ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	96 units
Program Electives	24 units
Academic & Professional Development I	3 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Master's Project]	36 units

The MSAIE-IS Advanced Study option allow you to shape your degree according to your interests and career path by choosing one of the following:

- **Master's Thesis:** Delve deeply into a problem and create a solution for a research-based project, gaining significant knowledge and skills in a particular area.
- **Master's Project:** A development-based project that will allow you to build up knowledge and skills in delivering successful solutions for industry.

You will declare which option you want to pursue via the **Advanced Study Declaration form** after your first semester.

Whether you elect to complete a master's thesis or master's project, you must adhere to the timeline and complete the actions listed in [Appendix C](#).

### MSAIE-IS Applied Advanced Study Option

The MSAIE-IS Applied Advanced option is 165 units of course work completed in four semesters and includes a 3-unit internship.

MSAIE-IS APPLIED ADVANCED STUDY OPTION: UNIT BREAKDOWN

Core Courses	96 units
Program Electives	24 units
Academic & Professional Development I & 2	6 units
Internship	3 units
Advanced Study [Master's Thesis or Master's Project]	36 units

*More information regarding the internship requirement can be found in [Appendix D](#).*

As with the Advanced Study option, the Applied Advanced Study option allows you to shape your degree according to your interests and career path by choosing one of the following options: a master's thesis or master's project (see *MSAIE-IS Advanced Study Option* section for more details).

### ACCELERATED PROGRAM

The INI's Accelerated Master's Program allows highly qualified students at Carnegie Mellon University to earn a master's degree from the INI in one year after completing their undergraduate curriculum at CMU.

Accelerated INI students add a fifth year to a customized undergraduate curriculum, allowing them to earn their MS in two or three semesters (depending on selected study option).

Please refer to the program's webpage for the most up-to-date curriculum information and application requirements:

Accelerated Master's Program Page:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/accelerated/index.html>

### PART-TIME PROGRAM

Part-time students will complete the same degree requirements as full-time students and are encouraged to take advantage of departmental and university resources to fully engage with their full-time peers.

#### PART-TIME COURSE LOAD

Students entering the MSIN and MSIS on a part-time basis will take 12-27 units per semester, with an optional summer semester. During the admissions process, you will establish a degree completion plan with your faculty advisor in order to determine the length of time and number of units per semester it will take to complete your degree.

#### PART-TIME PROGRAM DURATION

You will establish your program duration in consultation with your faculty advisor. The program duration can vary between a minimum of one and a half years up to a maximum of six years, depending on your course plan. The expected graduation semester will be reflected in your student record. In order to adjust your expected graduation semester, you must submit a petition to the INI Academic and Student Services team (see [Petition Procedure](#)).

The College of Engineering Statute of Limitations (See [Statute of limitations for master's degree students – College of Engineering](#)) specifies that students must complete their degree within six years from original matriculation as a master's student. For example, if you enroll in a minimum of 12 units each fall and spring semester, you will complete your degree in five years. In order to graduate in a shorter period of time, you must take 12 units or more per semester, or take courses during the summer semester.

### EVALUATION OF PART-TIME PROGRESS

The INI will evaluate part-time students on a per-semester basis.

If you fail to progress in your academic program, you will be placed on academic probation. The INI may drop you from the program if you fail to make progress over multiple consecutive semesters and consistently remain below 3.0 in both Core and Cumulative GPA.

All other INI academic probation policies and standards apply to part-time students. Please refer to [Academic Probation](#) for details.

### TUITION AND FEES

Please refer to the Tuition and Fees section of the INI website for all other information pertaining to tuition (see link below).

The current INI tuition rate and other university fees are on the INI website.

Part-time Program Website:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/admissions/parttime.html>

Tuition and Fees:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/admissions/financial/tuition.html>

## SPECIALIZED LEARNING TRACKS

### CYBER FORENSICS AND INCIDENT RESPONSE TRACK (CYFIR) TRACK

The CyFIR track prepares students in information security and digital investigations through a skill-based curriculum using state-of-the-art software.

The track is open to students in all programs and is taught by instructors from the CERT Division at Carnegie Mellon's Software Engineering Institute (SEI).

The CyFIR is made up of the following courses:

- 14-761 Applied Information Assurance (14-761 is a co-requisite to 14-822 and 14-823)
- 14-822 Host-Based Forensics
- 14-823 Network Forensics
- 14-832 Cyber Forensics and Incident Response Capstone (The capstone's pre-requisite courses are 14-761, 14-822 and 14-823.)

The track results in a CyFIR certificate issued from the CERT Division, which is available to INI students. Your degree program and study option determine how courses apply to degree requirements. You must successfully pass all of the CyFIR track courses in order to receive the certificate.

You may take some of these courses concurrently to successfully complete the certificate in 3 semesters.

Learn more about the CyFIR Track:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/cyfir.html>

### CYBER OPERATIONS (CYBEROPS) CERTIFICATION TRACK

Cyber Operations (CyberOps) is a specialization of information security that is in high demand within areas of the government and military, including the National Security Agency (NSA). To participate, students must be



enrolled in the M.S. in Information Security (MSIS) or M.S. in Information Technology – Information Security (MSIT-IS) degree programs.

Students enrolled in the INI's MSIS program are able to earn the CyberOps certificate without taking additional coursework. In order to do so, you must fulfill both sets of requirements and take all courses used to satisfy requirements for a letter grade.

The full curriculum for CyberOps certification, as well as sample course sequences, is available on the INI website (see link below).

Learn more about the CyberOps Certification:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/cyberops.html>

## SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Office of International Education (OIE) offers services for immigration/ visa/ I-20 processing, as well as workshops on cultural adjustment, reentry issues, career planning, tax filing and other topics.

The Student Academic Success Center (SASC) offers language support and cross-cultural training to help all students who are non-native English speakers succeed in their academic programs. The SASC also helps teaching assistants who are non-native English speakers develop the fluency and cultural understanding to teach successfully at Carnegie Mellon.

Various student-run organizations exist at Carnegie Mellon to provide support for students from diverse cultures, religions and backgrounds.

More information for International Students will be included in the next chapter.

OIE: Office of International Education (OIE) Website:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/oie/>

Student Academic Success Center (SASC):  
<https://www.cmu.edu/student-success/index.html>

SASC Language and Cross-cultural Support:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/student-success/programs/language-support/index.html>

CMU Student Organizations:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/international-students/orgs.html>

## STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

### STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENTS IN THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

All units required for a master's degree in the College of Engineering, whether earned in residence or transferred from another institution, must be recorded on the transcript within six years of the date on which the student enrolled in the program.

This statutory period can be extended by the college's Associate Dean for Graduate and Faculty Affairs for special circumstances that do not make it possible for the student to complete the requirements within the statutory period.

Any request for a waiver of the statute of limitations for master's degree studies must be approved by the head of the department or program offering the master's degree, and by the college's Associate Dean for Graduate and Faculty Affairs. The waiver request must explain the exceptional circumstances that warrant an extension. For cases in which a waiver is granted, the waiver will cover specific courses and will specify a time period for completion of the program.

For more information, please view the University's policy: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/masters-students-statute-of-limitations.html>

## VI. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

In order for international students to pursue an INI program in the U.S., they must secure a student visa.

**As the student, you are responsible for being aware of visa limitations, specifically concerning your ability to remain in the country.** You may be required to return to your home country within a short period of time if unforeseen circumstances cause you to leave your graduate program, either temporarily or permanently.

For additional information and important updates for international students, please refer to the Office of International Education (OIE) website:

Office of International Education (OIE) Website:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/oie/>

### MAINTAINING STATUS

#### COURSE LOAD

The OIE will only issue a "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status" to students admitted to a full-time graduate program in the INI, which is defined as requiring a minimum of 36 units per regular semester (fall/spring).

The student's eligibility certificate may be voided if they fail to maintain full-time status during the fall and spring semesters. International students in F-1 or J-1 status are not required to maintain a minimum course load during the summer semester.

Refer to the OIE website for more information about maintaining status.

OIE Guidelines for Maintaining Legal Status:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/maintain-legal-status/index.html>

#### PROGRAM LENGTH

F-1 or J-1 visa must properly maintain their status, which includes making normal progress through their program. Normal progress is defined as maintaining a passing GPA and avoiding activities that would delay graduation in the time allotted for the program. International students who fail to maintain their status or complete the units necessary to graduate in the time allotted for their program of study cannot be granted an extension and must find other approved means to complete their course requirements and obtain their degree.

Students may request department approval of an extension of their I-20 or DS-2019 certificate, but approvals are reserved for a limited number of extenuating circumstances specified by OIE. The rules governing an extension approval are outlined below.

Extension of a certificate of eligibility—I-20 or DS-2019-- can only be processed in your final semester, and are limited to the following circumstances:

- Delay caused by a change in major field of study (*change/addition of a minor is NOT a reason for an extension*)
- Delay caused by a change in research topic
- Delay caused by lost credits upon transfer to CMU
- Delay caused by unexpected research problems
- Delay caused by previously authorized or currently authorized OIE approved medical Reduced Course Load
- Other reasons for I-20 extension: Faculty advisors may provide information to describe compelling academic reasons that require a student to extend their I-20, but OIE will not be able to extend a student's I-20 or DS-2019 if no regulatory basis can be found.

*Note that delays caused by failing or dropping classes, not taking a required course in the time allotted, or academic probation or suspension are not accepted reasons for a program extension.*

Additional information about I-20 extensions can be found on the Maintaining Legal Status page of the OIE website: <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/maintain-legal-status/index.html>

Leave of Absence Form:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Students who fail to progress in their academic programs will receive formal notification from the INI.

If you receive formal notification, the INI will start administrative proceedings that drop you from your program of study following notification. The INI will also notify the University Registrar and OIE regarding your change of status. This process will be initiated even if an appeal is filed.

This process may impact your I-20 or DS-2019 status. You must contact OIE as soon as you have been notified, so they can advise you of any implications and guide you through the necessary next steps.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of Absence (LoA) is defined as leaving the university temporarily, with the firm and stated intention to return. See [Leave of Absence / Withdrawal](#) for more information.

International students holding an F-1 or J-1 visa should consider the impact a Leave of Absence may have on their I-20/DS-2019 status. If you are in the U.S., you must consult with OIE as part of any LoA proceedings.

Further information regarding Carnegie Mellon University's policy on student leave is available online. **To request Leave of Absence, students must complete a LoA form (see link below).**

CMU Policy on Student Leave:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/student-leave.html>

## INTERNSHIPS / ACADEMIC TRAINING

INI students in the Applied or Applied Advanced Study option must complete an internship as part of their curricula. Students who must complete a required internship will be enrolled in a Canvas Internship Course to track their progress and obtain credit for completing the requirement. Students in the Standard or Advanced Study option do not have a required internship.

All internships require INI approval; before beginning any type of work meant to satisfy the internship requirement, you must obtain formal INI approval and, if necessary, work authorization, in order to receive credit for completing the internship requirement.

Once a student submits an offer from a specific company and formally accepts an approved internship offer, no new employment offers will be reviewed by the INI for approval. Students may not renege an accepted internship offer unless formally approved by the INI. Failure to obtain such approval may result in the inability to satisfy the internship requirement which will impact the ability to graduate.

Students are expected to complete the internship during the summer. If you are unable to find an acceptable summer internship, you may petition to complete the requirement in the fall or spring semesters. The preferred number of hours for work in the summer semester is 40 hours per week or full-time as designated by the hiring company. Students permitted to undertake their internship during the fall or spring semester may only work part-time, which is a maximum of 20 hours per week (unless otherwise restricted by funding or scholarship requirements). *Please consult the INI Internship Team if you have questions about the timing or requirements of your internship.*

Only international students in an Applied or Applied Advanced Study option may qualify for Curricular Practical Training (CPT). CPT is work authorization within the U.S. that is designed specifically to be used in concert with a curricular requirement. If you are in a Standard or Advanced Study option, you cannot qualify for CPT because your study option does not have a required internship.

*Note: Spring starts in an Applied study option may qualify for CPT after their first semester, whereas spring starts in the Applied Advanced study option cannot qualify for CPT in their first summer and are expected to do their internship in their second summer, unless they are completing an internship outside the U.S.*

Guidelines for F-1 and J-1 students seeking work authorization are as follows:

- F-1 students may apply for either Curricular Practical Training (CPT) or pre-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT) to obtain work authorization for off-campus internships in the U.S. CPT is designed for use as work authorization to satisfy curricular requirements and will not impact students OPT allowance. Students should allow at least 2 weeks for CPT approval. CPT cannot be approved beyond the last day of final exams for the semester in which it's completed (with limited exceptions). OPT generally is not recommended as work authorization for internships due to unpredictable processing times.
- Extended summer calendar: In summers when CMU Enrollment Services has implemented an extended calendar, CPT work authorization may be approved up to the week before fall classes begin, depending on the internship duration offered by the employer. Students will be notified when an extended calendar is in effect.
- Students choosing pre-completion OPT may work until the last day of the semester in which they are completing their internship.
- J-1 students sponsored through OIE must obtain department approval for Academic Training (AT) if working off-campus in the U.S. J-1 students may also work outside the U.S. with proper approval as stipulated by the INI internship guidelines, or at CMU, which may require on-campus work authorization.
- J-1 students sponsored by outside organizations such as Fulbright, must obtain Academic Training approval through their J-1 Responsible Officer in order to work on- or off-campus. Work authorization from the INI is not required, unless requested by the J-1 Officer. However, all other requirements stated by the INI for satisfying the internship must be met.
- Internship are expected to be completed in the summer session
- In order for an internship to be approved, the position and work responsibilities must align with your program of study.
- Internships may be paid or unpaid.
- The internship must be 9-12 weeks in length. If the student wishes to accept an internship of less than 9 weeks, they must petition for approval.
- Details regarding final deliverables for the internship course will be outlined in the course syllabus.

For more details about the internship requirement, see [Appendix D](#).

## WORK AUTHORIZATION

---

In order to work off-campus for any company located in the U.S., you must obtain work authorization whether the position is paid or unpaid, in-person or remote. Work authorization includes CPT (Curricular Practical Training), recommended, and OPT (Optional Practical Training), not recommended for internship. Work outside the U.S. is permitted and does not require work authorization. On

campus work at CMU in a Research Assistant position is also permitted without work authorization.

All internships completed in the U.S. require a Social Security Number (SSN) for tax purposes, whether on- or off-campus work. Off-campus employment in the U.S. requires application for an SSN through the Social Security Administration (SSA). An SSN for on-campus work may be obtained through the Office of International Education (OIE) at <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/employment.html>.

F-1 students who choose to work off-campus in the U.S. in order to complete a required internship, must obtain an approved CPT authorization form from an INI staff member designated to sign OIE issued documents.

Note that INI Faculty Advisors, though referenced in work authorization form instructions, are not "designated staff" and may not sign or otherwise approve any OIE forms for work authorization.

Please review general rules governing CPT/OPT on the OIE website (*see link below*). *Note that policies expressed by OIE are general and may be superseded by INI department policies and rules.*

#### OIE CPT/OPT Guidelines:

<https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/employment.html>

## EXTENSIONS

You may apply for pre-completion OPT if you wish to continue working in the semester following the one in which you've completed your internship. Be aware that processing times for USCIS approval of OPT are currently unpredictable and may take up to 5 months; therefore, you should begin the application process at the earliest allowable time prior to the intended OPT start date.

Students who receive offers from companies that hire in cohorts (hiring with fixed, non-negotiable start and end dates), may be approved for a CPT end date beyond the general date designated by OIE (*unless the Registrar's office has confirmed use of an extended summer calendar*). To obtain such approval, a company contact (name and email) should be submitted along with the initial offer letter.

## PRACTICUM

MSMITE and MSIT-IS students may not obtain CPT or OPT work authorization for the fall practicum. The practicum is a core course requirement separate from the internship core requirement and cannot include remuneration as part the course.

## PROGRAM TRANSFERS AND STUDY OPTION CHANGES

---

Program transfers and study option changes are strongly discouraged and rarely approved by the INI. For example, program transfers from a Pittsburgh-only to a Bicoastal program (ex. transferring from the MSIN to the MSMITE), require additional logistical considerations. In the rare circumstance when either a program transfer or study option change is being considered, the student must request approval by submitting a petition to the department.

In addition to the process detailed in [Petition Procedure](#), international students approved for a program transfer and/or study option change must obtain a Program Change form to submit to OIE. This will result in an update to your I-20 certificate, which may require submission of new financial documents to demonstrate sufficient funds to cover any additional tuition and expenses.

#### College of Engineering Statute of Limitations for Master's Degree Students:

<https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic->

[policies/graduate-policies/registration-grading-credit.html#statute-of-limitations-for-master's-degree-students](https://www.cmu.edu/policies/graduate-policies/registration-grading-credit.html#statute-of-limitations-for-master's-degree-students)

University Policy for Master's Students:

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/masters-students-statute-of-limitations.html>



## VII. CAREER SERVICES

INI Career Services provides students with guidance during your internship and job searches. Through career coaching, you can receive assistance with tailoring application materials, interview preparation, offer negotiations, networking advice and overall career consulting.

Additionally, your Career Services team offers professional development training on a variety of topics. They also collaborate with employers and alumni to create connections and opportunities that are specific to your recruiting needs.

Learn More About INI Career Services:

[https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/career\\_services/](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/career_services/)

Make a Career Services Appointment:

<https://cmu.joinhandshake.com/login>

### UNIVERSITY CAREER RESOURCES

You also have access to resources offered by Carnegie Mellon University's central Career & Professional Development Center (CPDC). These resources include workshops, company information sessions and Tech Talks, and job fairs.

Handshake is CMU's online recruiting system. Employers can post jobs, request interviews and review student resumes through Handshake. Students and alumni can apply to positions, sign up for interviews and find contact information for thousands of recruiters. Access handshake through the CPDC website using your Andrew ID.

CMUniverse is the university's alumni and student networking platform. Students can chat, email or schedule appointments with INI alumni in the INI group

or network more broadly with CMU alumni on the platform.

CPDC: <https://www.cmu.edu/career/>

Handshake: <https://www.cmu.edu/career/handshake/>

CMUniverse: <https://cmuniverse.peoplegrove.com>

### JOB & INTERNSHIP SEARCH GUIDELINES

*The policies and guidelines on conducting a job search are available on the CPDC website (see link below).*

We expect you to follow these guidelines and ethical practices, such as arriving on time for interviews, being truthful about your qualifications and honoring agreements with recruiters. Once you have accepted a job offer, you should stop searching, applying and interviewing for other positions.

The CPDC reserves the right to limit access to Handshake for any users that do not follow job search guidelines. Students who do not follow these guidelines may forfeit their on-campus interviewing and/or resume submission privileges.

While the INI strives to play a supportive role in your career pursuits, we consider academics your top priority. Your job search should not impede your academic progress. Attending job fairs or interviews are not acceptable reasons to skip classes or miss assignments.

CPDC Ethical Job / Internship Search Policy:

<https://www.cmu.edu/career/students-and-alumni/ethical-job-search-policy/index.html>

### ACCEPTING AN OFFER

Once you officially accept an offer, it is considered final. You cannot continue searching, applying and

interviewing for a different position after accepting an offer. If you renege an offer, you will lose access to Handshake for at least one semester. You will also be prohibited from participating in the job fairs in the fall semester.

This policy will be enforced regardless of whether the department confirms you have reneged (whether it be notification from the CPDC, the company, or the student).

## VIII. METACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

### INI STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

---

The INI's two student organizations, Women@INI (WINI) and Graduate Organization@INI (GOINI), plan and host events throughout the academic year and provide a community of support for students during their time in graduate school.

Learn more about GOINI and WINI:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/organizations.html>

### LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Eligible INI students may be nominated and elected to serve as student officers for GOINI and WINI after completing one semester of studies at the INI. Incoming GOINI and WINI officers are elected on a rolling basis when an officer position becomes available. Students can serve up to three semesters in an officer role and their position will be open for new nominations in the semester prior to the current officer's graduation semester.

#### Student Officer Eligibility

In order to be eligible to serve as a GOINI and/or WINI student officer, you must be in good academic standing, with core and cumulative GPAs of at least 3.0, and have not violated the Carnegie Mellon University Policy on Academic Integrity.

### CONFERENCE FUNDING

---

#### GSA / PROVOST CONFERENCE FUNDING

You may apply for conference funds from the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and the Provost's Office. Awards are managed by the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs.

The INI may match GSA/Provost conference funding\* for eligible students who are in good academic standing, with core and cumulative GPAs of at least 3.0, and have not violated the Carnegie Mellon University Policy on Academic Integrity.

Additionally, the INI offers eligible students the opportunity to apply for conference funding in the form of departmental scholarships. In order to be eligible to receive conference funding, you must be in good academic standing, with core and cumulative GPAs of at least 3.0, and have not violated the Carnegie Mellon University Policy on Academic Integrity. Note that availability of funding varies year-to-year.

*\* Per academic year, there are limited funds available for matching by the department.*

GSA / Provost Office Conference Funding:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/graduate/professional-development/conference-funding/index.html>

### INI GRADUATION AWARDS

---

Staff and faculty may nominate graduating INI students to receive an award upon graduation. Nominations are reviewed by an award committee, and the awards are presented at the INI Diploma Ceremony.

In order to be eligible to receive an INI Graduation Award, you must be in good academic standing, with core and cumulative GPAs of at least 3.0, and have not violated the Carnegie Mellon University Policy on Academic Integrity (see [Academic Integrity](#)).

## IX. TUITION & FEES

### TUITION RATES

---

The tuition rate is set in the spring for the upcoming academic year. The tuition for your second year in the program will likely increase; the new tuition rate will be published in the spring.

You will be charged tuition for each semester in which you are enrolled. Summer courses, if taken, are charged additional tuition at the per unit rate.

Students in the Applied and Applied Advanced Study option who complete their internship requirement during the summer will be enrolled in and assessed tuition for the 3-unit internship course at the per-unit tuition rate.

Please refer to the INI's website for detailed information regarding tuition and additional fees.

#### Current Tuition and Fees:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/admissions/financial/tuition.html>

### TUITION ASSESSMENT FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

If you go on a Leave of Absence (LOA), you will be assessed tuition based on the current academic year upon your return. You will be charged tuition for each semester you are enrolled. Any previously awarded funding may be reassessed.

### BILLING AND PAYMENTS

---

The university HUB handles the tuition billing and payment process for all INI students.

#### Billing and Payments Policy:

<http://www.cmu.edu/sfs/billing/index.html>

### UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID

---

Graduate students should refer to the Graduate Financial Aid Guide on the HUB website for information about funding options and how to apply for financial aid as well other helpful links.

### OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNDING

---

Graduate students who find themselves in need of immediate funds for emergency situations should contact the Office of the Dean of Students (see [Appendix A](#)) to inquire about the types of emergency funding available to enrolled students.

#### Office of the Dean of Students:

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/index.html>

#### Graduate Financial Aid Guide:

<http://www.cmu.edu/finaid/>

#### Emergency Student Loans

<http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/dean/loans/>

### STUDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

---

INI students are subject to Carnegie Mellon University policy regarding student financial obligation and past due accounts.

#### Review SFO policy:

<http://www.cmu.edu/sfs/billing/sfo.html>

## X. UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### UNIVERSITY POLICIES & EXPECTATIONS

---

It is the responsibility of each member of the Carnegie Mellon community to be familiar with university policies and guidelines. In addition to this departmental graduate student handbook the following resources are available to assist you in understanding community expectations:

The Word/Student Handbook: [www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword//index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword//index.html)

Academic Integrity Policy:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/academic-integrity.html>

University Policies Website:  
[www.cmu.edu/policies/](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/)

Office of Graduate and Postdoc Affairs Website:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/policies/index.html>

Due to the changing nature of conditions and expectations surrounding public health and safety requirements, please visit [www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/](http://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/) for the most up-to-date information.

Please see [Appendix A](#) for additional information about these resources.

The INI Student Handbook presents some university policies within this section that are particularly relevant to INI students.

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

---

The Academic Calendar provides information on all deadlines including registration dates, class start dates, add/drop deadlines, exam dates and more.

Academic Calendar:

<https://www.cmu.edu/hub/calendar/index.html>

### CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

---

Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate in admission, employment or administration of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, belief, veteran status or genetic information. Furthermore, Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate and is required not to discriminate in violation of federal, state or local laws or executive orders.

Inquiries concerning the application of and compliance with this statement should be directed to the university ombudsperson, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-1018. Obtain general information about Carnegie Mellon University by calling 412-268-2000.

Carnegie Mellon University publishes an annual campus security and fire safety report describing the university's security, alcohol and drug, sexual assault and fire safety policies, and containing statistics about the number and type of crimes committed on the campus, and the number and cause of fires in campus residence facilities during the preceding three years. You can obtain a copy by contacting the Carnegie Mellon Police Department at 412-268-2323. The annual security and fire safety report also is available online at [www.cmu.edu/police/annualreports](http://www.cmu.edu/police/annualreports).

Information regarding the application of Title IX, including to admission and employment decisions, the sexual misconduct grievance procedures and process, including how to file a report or a complaint of sex discrimination, how to file a report of sexual harassment, and how the university responds to such reports is available at [www.cmu.edu/title-ix](http://www.cmu.edu/title-ix). The Title IX

coordinator may be reached at 5000 Forbes Ave., 140 Cyert Hall, Pittsburgh, PA 15213; 412-268-7125; or [tix@cmu.edu](mailto:tix@cmu.edu).

**CMU Statement of Assurance:**

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/administrative-and-governance/statement-of-assurance.html>

**Learn more about Title IX policies:**

[www.cmu.edu/title-ix](http://www.cmu.edu/title-ix)

**Contact the Title IX coordinator:**

[tix@cmu.edu](mailto:tix@cmu.edu)

## THE CARNEGIE MELLON CODE

---

Students at Carnegie Mellon University, because they are members of an academic community dedicated to the achievement of excellence, are expected to meet the highest standards of personal, ethical and moral conduct possible.

These standards require personal integrity, a commitment to honesty without compromise, as well as truth without equivocation and a willingness to place the good of the community above the good of the self. Obligations once undertaken must be met, commitments kept.

As members of the Carnegie Mellon University community, individuals are expected to uphold the standards of the community in addition to holding others accountable for said standards. It is rare that the life of a student in an academic community can be so private that it will not affect the community as a whole or that the above standards do not apply.

The discovery, advancement and communication of knowledge are not possible without a commitment to these standards. Creativity cannot exist without acknowledgment of the creativity of others. New knowledge cannot be developed without credit for prior

knowledge. Without the ability to trust that these principles will be observed, an academic community cannot exist.

The commitment of its faculty, staff and students to these standards contributes to the high respect in which the Carnegie Mellon University degree is held. Students must not destroy that respect by their failure to meet these standards. Students who cannot meet them should voluntarily withdraw from the university.

**The Carnegie Mellon Code can be found online:**

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/code/index.html>

### Master's Students Statute of Limitations – University

*Below is the University policy. See [College of Engineering Statute of Limitations for Master's Students](#) for college-specific policy.*

As outlined in the Master's Students Statute of Limitations, students will complete all requirements for the master's degree within a maximum of seven years from original matriculation as a master's student, or less if required by a more restrictive department, school or college policy. Once this time-to-degree limit has lapsed, the person may resume work towards a master's degree only if newly admitted to a currently offered master's degree program under criteria determined by that program.

Under extraordinary circumstances, such as leave of absence, military or public service, family or parental leave, or temporary disability, a school or college may, upon the relevant department's recommendation and with the written approval of the dean (or designate), defer the lapse for a period commensurate with the duration of that interruption. Students who are pursuing a master's degree as part-time students for all semesters of their program, as approved by their program, may also appeal to their program or department for extension of the time to degree limit.



Master's Students Statute of Limitations:

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/masters-studentsstatute-of-limitations.html>

## DROP/ADD/WITHDRAW PROCEDURES

Students taking undergraduate and master's level courses must follow the procedures and deadlines for adding, dropping, or withdrawing from courses as identified on the academic calendar.

Drop/ Add/ Withdraw procedures:

<https://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/course-changes/index.html>

## TRANSFER COURSES & PCHE

Carnegie Mellon University offers students the opportunity to take courses for credit through a cross-registration program (see Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education (PCHE) and Cross-registration below) and through the receipt of transfer credit from other accredited institutions.

The Carnegie Mellon University transcript will include information on such courses as follows: Carnegie Mellon courses and courses taken through the university's cross-registration program will have grades recorded on the transcript and be factored into the QPA. All other courses will be recorded on this transcript indicating where the course was taken, but without grades. Such courses will not be taken into account for academic actions, honors or QPA calculations.

Note: suspended students may take courses elsewhere; however, they may receive transfer credit only if their college's and department's policies allow this.

For departmental protocols regarding transfer courses, please refer to [Ch. III Enrollment & Registration](#).

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES ON GRADING

This policy offers details concerning university grading principles for students taking courses and covers the specifics of assigning and changing grades, grading options, drop/withdrawals and course repeats. It also defines the undergraduate and graduate grading standards.

### PROCESS FOR APPEALING FINAL GRADES

Final grades will be changed only in exceptional circumstances and only with the approval of the instructor and the department, unit or program. Grading is a matter of sound discretion of the instructor and final grades are rarely changed without the consent of the instructor who assigned the grade. The following circumstances are the unusual exceptions that may warrant a grade appeal: (a) the final grade assigned for a course is based on manifest error (e.g., a clear error such as arithmetic error in computing a grade or failure to grade one of the answers on an exam), or (b) the faculty or staff member who assigned the grade did so in violation of a university policy.

CMU Grading Policies:

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/grading.html>

Final Grades Appeal Process:

<https://www.cmu.edu/graduate/policies/appeal-grievance-procedures.html>

## UNIVERSITY POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please review the University Policy on Academic Integrity. The policy includes the University expectations around academic integrity and provides definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized assistance.

A review of the University's Academic Disciplinary Actions procedures is also recommended. These procedures outline the process for investigating, reporting, and adjudicating violations of the University Policy on Academic Integrity. The procedures also outline the appeal process.

#### REVIEW THE FOLLOWING POLICIES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University Policy on Academic Integrity:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/academic-integrity.html>

University's Academic Disciplinary Actions:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/academic-discipline/index.html>

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE / WITHDRAWAL

---

"Leave of Absence" means leaving the university temporarily, with the firm and stated intention to return.

"Withdrawal" means leaving the university with no intention to return.

Withdrawals or leaves taken on or before the university deadline to drop classes without receiving a 'W' (withdrawal) grades will result in all courses or grades removed for that semester. Withdrawals or leaves taken after the university deadline to drop classes without receiving a 'W' grade but before the last day of classes will result in 'W' grades assigned to all classes. Withdrawals or leaves taken after the last day of classes will result in permanent grades assigned by the instructors for each class. After the last day of class, courses cannot be removed from a student's transcript.

Students who would like to withdraw or take a leave of absence must complete the appropriate form, available on The HUB website. If a student goes on leave of absence after accepting an internship offer, they must notify the company of their current academic status. The

student must provide documentation that the company has been properly notified to the INI Academic and Student Services team and Career Services team prior to going on leave of absence.

Further information about Carnegie Mellon University's policy on student leave go to:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/StLeave.html>

Leave of Absence form available on HUB website:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>

### WITHDRAWAL/ TUITION REFUND POLICY

The HUB will determine if a student should receive a tuition refund if an INI student withdraws or takes a leave of absence, as this is governed by Carnegie Mellon's policies and not the INI.

For additional information and the tuition adjustment schedules, go to:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/sfs/tuition/adjustment/index.html>

### RETURNING TO CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

A student must complete the Application for Return form (available from the HUB) when they plan to return after a leave of absence, at least one month prior to the start of the semester.

The student must also meet any conditions that were set by the INI at the time the leave was granted.

For more information about Carnegie Mellon University's policy on student return, go to:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/StReturns.html>

## SUSPENSION/REQUIRED WITHDRAWAL POLICY

University suspension is a forced, temporary leave from the university. A student may be suspended for academic, disciplinary and administrative reasons. The INI adheres to Carnegie Mellon University's policy on student suspension/required withdrawal.

Carnegie Mellon University's policy on student suspension/required withdrawal:

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Suspension.html>

## WITHDRAWAL OF DEGREE

---

The university reserves the right to withdraw a degree even though it has been granted should there be discovery that the work upon which it was based or the academic records in support of it had been falsified. In such a case, the degree will be withdrawn promptly upon discovery of the falsification.

University policy on Degree Withdrawal:

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/DegreeWithdrawal.html>

## SUMMARY OF GRADUATE STUDENT APPEAL AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

---

You can find the Summary of Graduate Student Appeal and Grievance Procedures on the Graduate Education Resource webpage. This document summarizes processes available to graduate students who seek review of academic and non-academic issues. Generally, graduate students are expected to seek informal resolution of all concerns within the applicable department, unit or program before invoking formal processes.

When an informal resolution cannot be reached, however, a graduate student who seeks further review of the matter is to follow the formal procedures outlined here. These appeal and grievance procedures shall apply to students in all graduate programs of the University. Students should refer to this handbook for information about the administration and academic policies of the INI and College of Engineering.

A graduate student who seeks further review of the matter is to follow the formal procedures outlined at the link provided below when an informal resolution cannot be reached. These appeal and grievance procedures shall apply to students in all graduate programs of the university.

Summary of Graduate Student Appeal and Grievance Procedures:

<https://www.cmu.edu/graduate/policies/appeal-grievance-procedures.html>

## STUDENT PRIVACY RIGHTS

---

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), students have the right to:

- Inspect and review their education records
- Request an amendment to their education records if they believe they are inaccurate or misleading
- Request a hearing if their request for an amendment is not resolved to their satisfaction
- Consent to disclosure of personally identifiable information from their education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without their consent
- File a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education Family Policy Compliance Office if they believe their rights under FERPA have been violated

Student Privacy Rights Policy:

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/StPrivacy.html>

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property includes any patentable invention, any copyrightable subject matter, or trade secret. It also includes works of art, and inventions or creations that might normally be developed on a proprietary basis.

To understand how the intellectual property policy applies to student work, refer to:

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/IntellProp.html>

## PETS & OTHER ANIMALS

Pets are permitted outside on campus grounds when leashed and properly attended. No animal may be left tied to trees or other objects on campus. In all cases the owner of the animal is responsible for the animal's behavior and any damage caused by the animal.

With the exception of service animals, students and their guests are not permitted to bring dogs, cats or other pets inside any university buildings, including residence facilities, fraternities and sororities, classrooms, and other academic or administrative facilities.

For protocol regarding service animals and emotional support animals, please refer to the full policy online at the link below.

Carnegie Mellon's policy on pets:

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/community-policies/pets.html>

## ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students or employees on Carnegie Mellon University property or as part of any of its activities is prohibited.

In addition, all university social activities, on and off campus, that serve alcoholic beverages are subject to the social host policy.

**ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY'S POLICY ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS:**

<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/DrugAlcohol.html>

## ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Office of Disability Resources at Carnegie Mellon University has a continued mission to provide physical and programmatic campus access to all events and information within the Carnegie Mellon University community. We work to ensure that qualified individuals receive reasonable accommodations as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students who would like to receive accommodations can begin the process through Disability Resources secure online portal or email [access@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:access@andrew.cmu.edu) to begin the interactive accommodation process.

Students with disabilities are encouraged to self-identify with the Office of Disability Resources and request needed accommodations. Any questions about the process can be directed to Catherine Getchell, 412-268-6121, [getchell@cmu.edu](mailto:getchell@cmu.edu)

CMU Office of Disability Resources website:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/education-office/disability-resources/>

Additional Resources: <https://www.cmu.edu/title-ix/resources-and-information/resources.html>.

## SAFEGUARDING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY / POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

---

The University prohibits sex-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/ domestic violence and stalking. The University also prohibits retaliation against individuals who bring forward such concerns or allegations in good faith. The University's Sexual Misconduct Policy and The University's Policy Against Retaliation is available at the links below.

If you have been impacted by any of these issues, you are encouraged to make contact with any of the following resources:

- Office of Title IX Initiatives,  
<https://www.cmu.edu/title-ix/>  
412-268-7125, [tix@cmu.edu](mailto:tix@cmu.edu)
- University Police, 412-268-2323

Additional resources can be found at:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/title-ix/resources-and-information/resources.html>.

*Please note that certain employees identified as **Responsible Employees** must report information to the Title IX Coordinator so that the university can offer support and resolution options to the Complainant.*

University's Sexual Misconduct Policy:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/administrative-and-governance/sexual-misconduct/index.html>

The University's Policy Against Retaliation:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/administrative-and-governance/whistleblower.html>

## CONSENSUAL INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP POLICY REGARDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

---

This policy addresses the circumstances in which romantic, sexual or amorous relationships/ interactions with undergraduate students, even if consensual, are inappropriate and prohibited. The purpose of this policy is to assure healthy professional relationships. This policy is not intended to discourage consensual intimate relationships unless there is a conflicting professional relationship in which one party has authority over the other as in the policy.

Review the policy in its entirety at:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/consensual-relationships.html>

## CHILDBIRTH/MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION PROTOCOL

---

Students whose anticipated delivery date is during the course of the semester may consider taking time away from their coursework and/or research responsibilities. Any student who gives birth to a child while engaged in coursework or research is eligible to take either a short-term absence or formal leave of absence. Students are encouraged to consult with relevant university faculty and staff as soon as possible as they begin making plans regarding time away.

Students must contact the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs to register for Maternity Accommodations. Students will complete an information form and meet with a member of the Dean's Office staff to determine resources and procedures appropriate for the individual

student. Planning for the student's discussion with appropriate academic contact(s) (advisor, associate dean, etc.) may be reviewed during this meeting.

Students in coursework should consider options for the semester of the anticipated birth such as working with their course instructors to receive incomplete grades, electing to drop to part-time status or taking a full semester leave of absence.

Students engaged in research must work with their faculty to develop plans for the research for the time they are away and for resuming upon return.

Master's students who receive an academic stipend funded by Carnegie Mellon are eligible to continue to receive stipend funding for up to six (6) weeks during a Short-Term Maternity Accommodation or a Formal Leave of Absence. Continued academic stipend funding may be extended by two (2) weeks, for a total of eight (8) weeks, if an absence longer than six weeks is medically necessary. To receive this support students must be registered with the Office of the Dean of Students.

**Note regarding INI department protocol:** All INI students who are going to become parents are eligible for parental accommodations and should consult with relevant university faculty and staff as early as possible. The following resources are available for students who are expecting:

**Email INI Academic and Student Services Team :** [ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-academic@andrew.cmu.edu)

GSA Partner & Family Resources:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/Resources-for-Graduate-Students/Partner-and-Family-Resources.html>

Review the full university protocol at:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/graduate/programs-services/maternity-accommodation-protocol.html>

## EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

If you are receiving a stipend, are a TA or are planning to have a position with CMU then Employment Eligibility Verification is Required.

Form I-9 must be completed within 3 business days of beginning work for any type of compensation (stipend or employment).

To ensure compliance with federal law, Carnegie Mellon University maintains the Employment [Eligibility Verification \(I-9\) Policy \[pdf\]](#) covering the university's I-9 and E-Verify requirements:

- Every individual receiving a stipend from CMU or employed by CMU must comply with the I-9 Policy by completing the Form I-9 within three business days following the first day of stipend start date/employment.
- Individuals who expect to work on a federally funded project are further responsible for submitting an E-Verify Processing Request Form to the Office of Human Resources if required.

For more information, please see [CMU's Guidance for Completing the Form I-9 \[pdf\]](#) and E-Verify Requirements at CMU, or visit the Human Resources Service website to learn more about Form I-9 and E-Verify and to schedule an appointment to complete the Form I-9.

Employment Eligibility Verification (I-9) Policy:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/hr/assets/hr/restrict/employment-eligibility-verification-policy.pdf>

CMU's Guidance for Completing the Form I-9:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/hr/assets/recruiting/restrict/i-9-guidance.pdf>

Human Resources Service website:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/hr/service-center/>

## XI. COMPUTING SERVICES

All INI students must abide by Carnegie Mellon University's policy on computing.

### COMPUTING POLICIES AND RESOURCES

---

You are provided with campus-wide, single-sign-on accounts (Andrew accounts), which are required to access campus-wide and INI-specific computing resources. *Andrew accounts can be managed from the CMU Computing Services website.*

All students are provided with access to centrally managed resources, such as wired/wireless network access, email, calendar, VPN, storage, Web publishing and more. For specific technical and policy details on any of these resources, consult CMU Computing Services.

For computing support, contact the Computing Services Help Center through their website below; by emailing it-help@cmu.edu; or by calling 412-268-4357 (HELP).

#### CMU Policy on Computing

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/information-technology/computing.html>

#### CMU Computing Services:

<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/index.html>

#### Computer Services Help Center:

<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/support/index.html>

### LAPTOPS

---

You are required to own a laptop in order to attend an INI degree program. The INI does not provide personal computing resources (such as desktop PCs) to students. Computers may be purchased through Carnegie Mellon University's bookstore (located in the basement of the Cohon University Center) and online at the link below.

In order to meet minimum technical requirements and support INI coursework and projects, student-owned computers should have a 64-bit capable x86\_64 (Intel or AMD) processor. If using alternative hardware (e.g., the Apple M1), you may have compatibility issues with instructor-provided resources.

#### CMU Computing Services:

<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/start/students.html>

#### College of Engineering Information Technology Services

<https://www.cmu.edu/ece/its/index.html>

#### CMU Tech Store:

<https://bookstore.web.cmu.edu/computerstore>

### PRINTING SERVICES

---

The INI uses the campus-wide Andrew print system. Black-and-white laser printers are provided for student use. Within the INI building, there are two printing stations – one located on the Winthrop level and the other one located on the Student Floor. Staff printers are not available for student use.

Instructions on printer setup and information on printing quotas and printing station locations are available online:

#### Printing Services:

<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/services/endpoint/printing-kiosks/campus-printing.html>

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

---

#### SOFTWARE AND COURSE SPECIFIC TOOLS

As a CMU student, you have access to a large selection of software titles available campus wide. See the online catalog below.



CMU Software Catalog:

<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/software/>

## COURSE-SPECIFIC TOOLS

Some courses may require students to access specific resources not described above. In these cases, the instructor will provide directions and support for access and use.

## XII. BUILDING POLICIES

INI building policies are located online in the document below. Please contact [ini-help@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-help@andrew.cmu.edu) with any questions.

INI Building Policies:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/handbook.html>

Email questions to:

[ini-help@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-help@andrew.cmu.edu)

## XIII. POST-MATRICULATION GUIDELINES

### RETURN OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

---

INI students must return all borrowed INI and university materials—such as software, manuals, library books/materials, or any other Carnegie Mellon University property—prior to departure from the program.

### EXIT INTERVIEWS

---

You may request an exit interview with the INI Director prior to leaving the program.

## XIV. ACRONYMS

**APD:** Academic and Professional Development

**CPDC:** Career and Professional Development Center

**CSD:** Computer Science Department

**DEC:** Distributed Education Center

**ECE:** Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

**EPP:** Engineering and Public Policy Department

**III:** Integrated Innovation Institute

**INI:** Information Networking Institute

**MSIN:** Master of Science in Information Networking

**MSIS** Master of Science in Information Security

**MSIT-IS:** MSIT-Information Security

**MSMITE:** MS in Mobile and IoT Engineering\*

**MSAIE-IS:** MS in Artificial Intelligence Engineering-  
Information Security

**SCS:** School of Computer Science

**SIO:** Student Information Online

**SV:** Silicon Valley

## APPENDIX A: UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

### KEY OFFICES FOR GRADUATE STUDENT SUPPORT

#### OFFICE OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS

[www.cmu.edu/graduate](http://www.cmu.edu/graduate) | [grad-ed@cmu.edu](mailto:grad-ed@cmu.edu)

The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs provides central support for all Master's and Doctoral students with a focus on their academic experience at Carnegie Mellon. The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs serves as a hub for connecting graduate students to relevant campus experts and resources to support their academic success, understanding of university level policies and practices and to assist them in advancing their personal and professional development.

Examples of resources offered through the Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs include:

- Website with university resources, contact information for CMU programs and services, calendar of events related to graduate students
- Bi-monthly email to all graduate students with information on activities, resources and opportunities
- Professional Development Seminars and Workshops
- GSA/Provost Conference Funding Grants
- GSA/Provost Small Research Grants (GuSH)

Consultations on issues related to the graduate student experience

The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs also works with the colleges and departments by informing and assisting in developing policy and procedures relevant to graduate students and working with departments on issues related to graduate students. Additionally, we partner with many other offices and

organizations, such as the Graduate Student Assembly, to support the holistic graduate student educational experience.

#### OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/dean>

The Office of the Dean of Students provides central leadership of the metacurricular experience at Carnegie Mellon including the coordination of student support. Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Gina Casalegno leads the Division of Student Affairs which includes the offices and departments listed below (not an exhaustive list).

Graduate students will find the enrollment information for Domestic Partner Registration and Maternity Accommodations in the Office of the Dean of Students or on their website. This Office also manages the Student Emergency Support Funding process. There are three forms of support funding for enrolled students: emergency student loans, maternity loans, and the Tartan Emergency Support Fund. These funds are made available through generous gifts of alumni and friends of the university as well as support from student organizations, Undergraduate Student Senate and the Graduate Student Assembly. Students will be provided with additional information about the various types of funding during a consultation meeting with a member of the Dean of Students team. Tuition costs are not eligible for Student Emergency Support Funding.

Additional resources for graduate students include College Liaisons and the Student Support Resources team. College Liaisons are senior members of the Division of Student Affairs who work with departments and colleges addressing student concerns across a wide range of issues. College Liaisons are identified on the student SIO page in the Important Contacts list. The Student Support Resources team offers an additional level of support for students who are navigating any of a wide range of life events. Student Support Resources

staff members work in partnership with campus and community resources to provide coordination of care and support appropriate to each student's situation.

The Division of Student Affairs includes (not an exhaustive list):

- [Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation](#)
- [Career and Professional Development Center \(CPDC\)](#)
- [Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion](#)
- [Cohon University Center](#)
- [Counseling & Psychological Services \(CaPS\)](#)
- [Dining Services](#)
- [Office of Community Standards and Integrity \(OCSI\)](#)
- [Office of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Civic Engagement \(SLICE\)](#)
- [University Health Services \(UHS\)](#)
- [Wellness Initiatives](#)

#### **CENTER FOR STUDENT DIVERSITY & INCLUSION**

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-diversity/>

Diversity and inclusion have a singular place among the values of Carnegie Mellon University. The Center for Student Diversity & Inclusion actively cultivates a strong, diverse and inclusive community capable of living out these values and advancing research, creativity, learning and development that changes the world.

The Center offers resources to enhance an inclusive and transformative student experience in dimensions such as access, success, campus climate and intergroup dialogue. Additionally, the Center supports and connects historically underrepresented students and those who are first in their family to attend college in a setting

where students' differences and talents are appreciated and reinforced, both at the graduate and undergraduate level. Initiatives coordinated by the Center include, but are not limited to:

- First generation/first in family to attend college programs
- LGBTQ+ Initiatives
- Race and ethnically focused programs, including Inter-University Graduate Students of Color Series (SOC) and PhD SOC Network
- Women's empowerment programs, including Graduate Women's Gatherings (GWGs)
- Transgender and non-binary student programs

#### **ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**

<http://www.cmu.edu/disability-resources/>

The Office of Disability Resources at Carnegie Mellon University has a continued mission to provide physical, digital, and programmatic access to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to their educational experience. We work to ensure that qualified individuals receive reasonable accommodations as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students who would like to receive accommodations can begin the process through Disability Resources' secure online portal or email [access@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:access@andrew.cmu.edu) to begin the interactive accommodation process.

Students with physical, sensory, cognitive, or emotional disabilities are encouraged to self-identify with the Office of Disability Resources and request needed accommodations.

Any questions about the process can be directed to [access@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:access@andrew.cmu.edu), or call (412) 268-6121.

## **EBERLY CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE & EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION**

[www.cmu.edu/teaching](http://www.cmu.edu/teaching)

We offer a wide variety of confidential, consultation services and professional development programs to support graduate students as teaching assistants or instructors of record during their time at Carnegie Mellon University and as future faculty members at other institutions. Regardless of one's current or future teaching context and duties, our goal is to disseminate evidence-based teaching strategies in ways that are accessible and actionable. Programs and services include campus-wide Graduate Student Instructor Orientation events and our Future Faculty Program, both of which are designed to help participants be effective and efficient in their teaching roles. The Eberly Center also assists departments in creating and conducting customized programs to meet the specific needs of their graduate student instructors. Specific information about Eberly Center support for graduate students is found [here](#).

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY**

[www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/index.html) | [gsa@cmu.edu](mailto:gsa@cmu.edu)

The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) is the branch of Carnegie Mellon Student Government that represents, and advocates for the diverse interests of all graduate students at CMU. GSA is composed of representatives from the different graduate programs and departments who want to improve the graduate student experience at the different levels of the university. GSA is funded by the Student Activities Fee from all graduate students. GSA passes legislation, allocates student activities funding, advocates for legislative action locally and in Washington D.C. on behalf of graduate student issues and needs, and otherwise acts on behalf of all graduate student interests. Our recent accomplishments are a

testament to GSA making a difference, and steps to implementing the vision laid out by the [strategic plan](#).

GSA offers an expanding suite of social programming on and off-campus to bring graduate students from different departments together and build a sense of community. GSA is the host of the Graduate Student Lounge on the 3rd floor of the Cohon University Center—a great place to study or meet up with friends. GSA also maintains a website of graduate student resources on and off-campus. Through GSA's continued funding for professional development and research conferences, the GSA/Provost Conference Funding Program and GSA/Provost GuSH Research Grants are able to run, as managed by the Office of Graduate and Postdoc Affairs. As we move forward, GSA will continue to rely on your feedback to improve the graduate student experience at CMU. Feel free to contact us at [gsa@cmu.edu](mailto:gsa@cmu.edu) to get involved, stop by our office in the Cohon University Center Room 304 or become a representative for your department.

## **OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (OIE)**

<http://www.cmu.edu/oie/>

Carnegie Mellon hosts international graduate and undergraduate students who come from more than 90 countries. The Office of International Education (OIE) is the liaison to the University for all non-immigrant students and scholars, as well the repository for study abroad opportunities and advisement. OIE provides many services including: advising on personal, immigration, study abroad, academic, and social and acculturation issues; presenting programs of interest such as international career workshops, tax workshops, and cross-cultural and immigration workshops; international education and statistics on international students in the United States; posting pertinent information to students through email and the OIE website and conducting orientation and pre-departure programs.

## VETERANS AND MILITARY COMMUNITY

<http://www.cmu.edu/veterans/>

Military veterans are a vital part of the Carnegie Mellon University community. Graduate students can find information on applying for veteran education benefits, campus services, veteran's groups at CMU, and non-educational resources through the Veterans and Military Community website. There are also links and connections to veteran resource in the Pittsburgh community.

The ROTC and Veteran Affairs Coordinator can be reached at [uro-vaedbenefits@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:uro-vaedbenefits@andrew.cmu.edu) or 412-268-8747.

## CARNEGIE MELLON ETHICS HOTLINE

<https://www.cmu.edu/hr/resources/ethics-hotline.html>

The health, safety and well-being of the university community are top priorities at Carnegie Mellon University. CMU provides a hotline that all members of the university community should use to confidentially report suspected unethical activity relating to areas below:

- Academic and Student Life
- Bias Reporting
- Environmental Health and Safety
- Financial Matters
- High-Risk Incident
- Human Resource Related
- Information Systems Research
- Threat of Business Interruption
- Threat of Violence or Physical Harm
- Title IX

*Students, faculty and staff can anonymously file a report by calling 877-700-7050 or visiting [www.reportit.net](http://www.reportit.net) (username: tartans; password: plaid). All submissions are reported to appropriate university personnel.*

*The hotline is NOT an emergency service. For emergencies, call University Police at 412-268-2323.*

## POLICY AGAINST RETALIATION

<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/administrative-and-governance/whistleblower.html>

It is the policy of Carnegie Mellon University to protect from retaliation any individual who makes a good faith report of a suspected violation of any applicable law or regulation, university Policy or procedure, any contractual obligation of the university, and any report made pursuant to the Carnegie Mellon University Code of Business Ethics and Conduct.

## KEY OFFICES FOR ACADEMIC & RESEARCH SUPPORT

### COMPUTING AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

[www.cmu.edu/computing](http://www.cmu.edu/computing)

Computing Services maintains and supports computing resources for the campus community, including the campus wired and wireless networks, printing, computer labs, file storage, email and software catalog. As members of this community, we are all responsible for the security of these shared resources. Be sure to [review the Safe Computing section](#) and the [University Computing Policy](#).

[Visit the Computing Services website](#) to learn more. For assistance the Computing Services Help Center is available at 412-268-4357 (HELP) or [it-help@cmu.edu](mailto:it-help@cmu.edu).

### STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

<https://www.cmu.edu/student-success/>



*Below is a list of academic support programs available at CMU:*

### TARTAN SCHOLARS

The Tartan Scholars program was created to provide support for limited resourced students through an intentional first year undergraduate experience with the goals of enhancing the cohort's skill and community building through a lens of self-authorship, growth mindset, and a sense of belonging. As part of the Student Academic Success Center, Tartan Scholars are invited to join the University and participate in summer initiatives and pre-orientation activities prior to their first year at the University.

There are opportunities for graduate students to serve as accountability, learning, or development partners, workshop facilitators, and presenters. Contact Diane Hightower at ddhighto@andrew.cmu.edu for more details.

### LEARNING SUPPORT

*Supplemental Instruction:* Supplemental Instruction (SI) is an academic support model that utilizes peer-assisted study sessions. The SI program provides regularly scheduled review sessions on course materials outside the classroom. SI is a non-remedial approach to learning as the program targets high-risk courses and is available in select courses based on data related to past student performance and feasibility.

*Peer Tutoring:* Weekly Tutoring Appointments are offered in a one-on-one and small group format to students from any discipline who need assistance with a course that may not be supported by our other services. Weekly appointments give students the opportunity to interact regularly with the same tutor to facilitate deeper understanding of concepts. Students can register online through the Student Academic Success website.

*Academic Coaching:* Academic Coaching provides holistic one-on-one peer support and group workshops

to help students find and implement their conditions for success. We assist students in improving time management, productive habits, organization, stress management, and study skills. Students will request support through the Academic Success Center website and attend in-person meetings or meet using video and audio-conferencing technology to provide all students with support.

*"Just in Time" Workshops:* The Student Academic Success team is available to partner with instructors and departments to identify skills or concepts that would benefit from supplemental offerings (workshops, boot camps) to support students' academic success and learning. We are eager to help convene and coordinate outside of the classroom skill-building opportunities that can be open to any student interested in building skill or reinforcing course concept mastery.

*Study Partners:* Support for students to create and benefit from their own study groups: The Student Academic Success team assists students in forming and benefiting from peer study groups, whereby all students can reap the benefits of peer-to-peer learning, student agency, and collaboration skill development. Staff from the Student Academic Success Center will be made available to instructors and students to assist with the formation of peer-led study groups. This level of support is open to any course where the instructor requests or agrees such support is appropriate and students are interested in both leading and participating.

### LANGUAGE AND CROSS-CULTURAL SUPPORT

More than 60% of graduate students at Carnegie Mellon are international students, and others are nonnative speakers of English who have attended high school or undergraduate programs in the US. Many of these students want to hone their language and cross-cultural skills for academic and professional success. Students can choose from sessions on

- how to give a strong presentation,

- writing academic emails,
- expectations and strategies for clear academic writing,
- how to talk about yourself as a professional in the U.S.,
- developing clearer pronunciation,
- using accurate grammar,
- building fluency, and more.

Students can make an appointment with a Language Development Specialist to get individualized coaching on language or cross-cultural issues.

The Student Academic Success Center is also charged with certifying the language of International Teaching Assistants (ITAs), ensuring that nonnative English speakers have the language proficiency needed to succeed as teaching assistants in the Carnegie Mellon classroom. Students preparing to do an ITA Certification should plan to take classes offered by the language support team at the SASC from the beginning of their first semester. Start by contacting the language support team at the SASC website or attend a Language Support Orientation at the SASC or in your department.

### UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

[www.library.cmu.edu](http://www.library.cmu.edu)

The University Libraries offers a wide range of information resources and services supporting graduate students in coursework, research, teaching, and publishing. The library licenses and purchases books, journals, media and other needed materials in various formats. Library liaisons, consultants and information specialists provide in-depth and professional assistance and advice in all-things information - including locating and obtaining specific resources, providing specialized research support, advanced training in the use and management of data. Sign up for workshops and hands-on topic-specific sessions such as data visualization with Tableau, cleaning data with OpenRefine, and getting started with Zotero. Weekly drop-in hours for Digital

Humanities and for Research Data Research Management are scheduled during the academic year. Start at the library home page to find the books, journals and databases you need; to identify and reach out to the library liaison in your field; to sign up for scheduled workshops; and to connect with consultants in scholarly publishing, research data management, and digital humanities.

### RESEARCH AT CMU

[www.cmu.edu/research/index.shtml](http://www.cmu.edu/research/index.shtml)

The primary purpose of research at the university is the advancement of knowledge in all fields in which the university is active. Research is regarded as one of the university's major contributions to society and as an essential element in education, particularly at the graduate level and in faculty development. Research activities are governed by several university policies. Guidance and more general information can be found on the Research at Carnegie Mellon website.

### OFFICE OF RESEARCH INTEGRITY & COMPLIANCE

[www.cmu.edu/research-compliance/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/research-compliance/index.html)

The Office of Research Integrity & Compliance (ORIC) is designed to support research at Carnegie Mellon University. The staff work with researchers to ensure research is conducted with integrity and in accordance with federal and Pennsylvania regulation. ORIC assists researchers with human subject research, conflicts of interest, responsible conduct of research, export controls, and institutional animal care & use. ORIC also provides consultation, advice, and review of allegations of research misconduct.

## KEY OFFICES FOR HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

---

### COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

<https://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>

<https://timely.md/schools/index.html?school=cmu>

Counseling & Psychological Services (CaPS) affords the opportunity for students to talk privately about academic and personal concerns in a safe, confidential setting. An initial consultation at CaPS can help clarify the nature of the concern, provide immediate support, and explore further options if needed. These may include a referral for counseling within CaPS, to another resource at Carnegie Mellon, or to another resource within the larger Pittsburgh community. CaPS also provides workshops and group sessions on mental health related topics specifically for graduate students on campus. CaPS services are provided at no cost. Appointments can be made in person, or by telephone at 412-268-2922.

Counseling and Psychological Services has partnered with TimelyCare to offer virtual wellbeing services and programs for students. As an addition to the wide range of mental health services that CaPS provides, TimelyCare will expand availability of mental health services to a wider range of days, times and locations, offer on-demand self-care content through its app, and provide emotional support services with professional counselors 24/7. All of this will be available 24/7 from anywhere in the United States, with no cost to visit.

### UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

[www.cmu.edu/HealthServices/](http://www.cmu.edu/HealthServices/)

University Health Services (UHS) is staffed by physicians, advanced practice clinicians and registered nurses who provide general medical care, allergy injections, first aid, gynecological care and contraception as well as on-site pharmaceuticals. The CMU Student Insurance Plan

covers most visit fees to see the physicians and advanced practice clinicians & nurse visits. Fees for prescription medications, laboratory tests, diagnostic procedures and referral to the emergency room or specialists are the student's responsibility and students should review the UHS website and their insurance plan for detailed information about the university health insurance requirement and fees.

UHS also has a registered dietitian and health promotion specialists on staff to assist students in addressing nutrition, drug and alcohol and other healthy lifestyle issues. In addition to providing direct health care, UHS administers the Student Health Insurance Program. The Student Health Insurance plan offers a high level of coverage in a wide network of health care providers and hospitals. Appointments can be made by visiting UHS's website, walk-in, or by telephone, 412-268-2157.

### CAMPUS WELLNESS

<https://www.cmu.edu/wellness/>

At Carnegie Mellon, we believe our individual and collective well-being is rooted in healthy connections to each other and to campus resources. The university provides a wide variety of wellness, mindfulness and connectedness initiatives and resources designed to help students thrive inside and outside the classroom. The BeWell@CMU e-newsletter seeks to be a comprehensive resource for CMU regarding all wellness-inspired events, announcements and professional and personal development opportunities. Sign up for the Be Well monthly newsletter via <https://bit.ly/BeWellNewsletter> or by contacting the Program Director for Student Affairs Wellness Initiatives, at [alusk@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:alusk@andrew.cmu.edu).

### RELIGIOUS AND SPIRITUAL LIFE INITIATIVES (RSLI)

[www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/spirituality](http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/spirituality)

Carnegie Mellon is committed to the holistic growth of our students, including creating opportunities for

spiritual and religious practice and exploration. We have relationships with local houses of worship from various traditions and many of these groups are members of CMU's Council of Religious Advisors. We also offer programs and initiatives that cross traditional religious boundaries in order to increase knowledge of and appreciation for the full diversity of the worldview traditions. Our RSLI staff are here to support students across the spectrum of religious and spiritual practice and would be more than happy to help you make a connection into a community of faith during your time at CMU.

#### UNIVERSITY POLICE

<http://www.cmu.edu/police/>

EMERGENCY ONLY: 412-268-2323

NON-EMERGENCY: 412-268-6232

The University Police Department is located at 300 South Craig Street (entrance is on Filmore Street). The department's services include police patrols and call response, criminal investigations, fixed officer and foot officer patrols, event security, and crime prevention and education programming as well as bicycle and laptop registration. Visit the department's website for additional information about the staff, emergency phone locations, crime prevention, lost and found, fingerprint services, and annual statistic reports.

Carnegie Mellon University publishes an annual campus security and fire safety report describing the university's security, alcohol and drug, sexual assault, and fire safety policies and containing statistics about the number and type of crimes committed on the campus and the number and cause of fires in campus residence facilities during the preceding three years. Graduate students can obtain a copy by contacting the University Police Department at 412-268-6232. [The annual security and fire safety report is also available online.](#)

#### SHUTTLE AND ESCORT SERVICES

<https://www.cmu.edu/parking/shuttle/index.html>

Parking and Transportation coordinates the Shuttle Service and Escort Service provided for CMU students, faculty, and community. The Shuttle & Escort website has full information about these services, stops, routes, tracking and schedules.

#### FOR CMU-SILICON VALLEY STUDENTS

If you or anyone you know experiences academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings of anxiety or depression, we encourage you to seek support. Student Affairs at CMU-SV is here to help and can also connect you to additional local resources if needed.

#### Contact CMU Silicon Valley Student Affairs:

Email: [student-services@sv.cmu.edu](mailto:student-services@sv.cmu.edu)

Phone: (650) 335-2844

#### Counseling and Psychological Services:

Due to licensure laws and limitations across different states, clinicians at Counseling and Psychological Services (CaPS) cannot provide distance counseling to students outside the state of Pennsylvania. However, CaPS does provide phone consultations for students who reside outside of the state of Pennsylvania for the purpose of assessing your current needs, learning your location, identifying resources around you, and providing guidance as you secure these resources.

You can call to get started: 412-268-2922 or reach out to a member of the CMU-SV Student Affairs team and request to be connected to CaPS ([student-services@sv.cmu.edu](mailto:student-services@sv.cmu.edu)).

#### One Medical:

As a CMU-SV student, you are also given a membership to One Medical. This will greatly assist you in navigating local health care. Click here for more information about Mental Health services at One Medical. To enroll, please visit:

<https://sv.cmu.edu/student-services/student-health.html>

#### Thriving Campus:

CMU is a part of the Thriving Campus community. Thriving Campus is a search tool that is specific to clinical providers interested and experienced in working with the higher education population in the United States. Students can search for specialty, insurance, demographic preferences, etc. and contact clinical providers directly to obtain appointments.

To see and access clinicians near you in the United States, go to the [CMU Thriving Campus website](#) and click "Use My Location" in the top left corner of the page, or click change and type in your City/State and click update in the bar on the right.

## THE WORD STUDENT HANDBOOK

The WORD is Carnegie Mellon University's student handbook and serves as the foundation for the department (and sometimes college) handbook. The WORD contains university-wide academic policy information and resources, community policies and resources, and describes the university level procedures used to review possible violations of these standards. It is designed to provide all students with the tools, guidance, and insights to help you achieve your full potential as a member of the Carnegie Mellon community.

Access the The WORD (online student handbook)  
<http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword//>

*Information about the following is included in The WORD (not an exhaustive list); graduate students are encouraged to bookmark this site and refer to it often.*

- Carnegie Mellon Vision, Mission
- Statement of Assurance

- Carnegie Code
- Academic Standards, Policies and Procedures
  - Educational Goals
  - Academic and Individual Freedom
  - Statement on Academic Integrity Standards for Academic & Creative Life
  - Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities
  - Master's Student Statute of Limitations
  - Conduct of Classes
  - Copyright Policy
  - Cross-college & University Registration
  - Doctoral Student Status Policy
  - Evaluation & Certification of English Fluency for Instructors
  - Final Exams for Graduate Courses
  - Grading Policies
  - Intellectual Property Policy
  - Privacy Rights of Students
  - Student's Rights
- Research
  - Human Subjects in Research
  - Office of Research Integrity & Compliance
  - Office of Sponsored Programs
  - Policy for Handling Alleged Misconduct of Research
  - Policy on Restricted Research
- Tax Status of Graduate Student Awards
- Campus Resources and Opportunities
  - Alumni Relations
  - Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities
  - Athletics, Physical Fitness & Recreation
  - Carnegie Mellon ID Cards and Services
  - Cohon University Center
  - Copying, Printing & Mailing
  - Division of Student Affairs
  - Domestic Partner Registration
  - Emergency Student Loan Program
  - Gender Programs & Resources

- Health Services
- Dining Services
- The HUB Student Services Center
- ID Card Services
- Leonard Gelfand Center
- LGBTQ Resources
- Multicultural and Diversity Initiatives
- Opportunities for Involvement
- Parking and Transportation Services
- Shuttle and Escort Services
- Spiritual Development
- University Police
- Student Activities
- University Stores
- Community Standards, Policies and Procedures
  - Alcohol and Drugs Policy
  - AIDS Policy
  - Bicycle/Wheeled Transportation Policy
  - Damage to Carnegie Mellon Property
  - Deadly Weapons
  - Discriminatory Harassment
  - Disorderly Conduct
  - Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy
  - Freedom of Expression Policy
  - Health Insurance Policy Immunization Policy
  - Missing Student Protocol
  - Non-Discrimination Policy
  - On-Campus Emergencies
  - Pets
  - Political Activities
  - Recycling Policy
  - Riotous and Disorderly Behavior
  - Safety Hazards
  - Scheduling and Use of University Facilities
  - Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Policy
  - Smoking Policy
  - Student Accounts Receivable and Collection Policy and Procedures
  - Student Activities Fee
  - Student Enterprises
  - Workplace Threats and Violence Policy

University policies can also be found in full online at:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/>



## APPENDIX B: INDEPENDENT STUDY

The INI Independent Study course allows you to expand and enhance your educational experience and professional preparation beyond the scope of existing courses, projects, and experiences at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).

### APPROVAL PROCESS

If you identify a topic or project that is relevant to your degree but is not covered in-depth by any other course, project, practicum, internship or curricular program component, you may negotiate an Independent Study with a suitable CMU faculty member. *(Note: any CMU faculty member can serve as your Independent Study advisor, as long as you register under the INI's Independent Study Course.)*

After you have identified a faculty member to advise your Independent Study, you must submit a petition and a comprehensive project proposal (signed by your Independent Study advisor) to the INI Academic and Student Services team. The petition must be submitted by the first week of the semester or mini term and be approved by the course 'Add' deadline of the semester or mini term. *Therefore, students should submit their petition prior to the start of the semester in which they plan to complete the independent study so they can start work on the project during the first week of class.*

Your project proposal must include an overview of the technical goals and expected outcomes of the Independent Study, as well as compelling explanations of:

- Why an Independent Study on this topic or project is relevant to their degree program and should be allowed
- Why the chosen faculty member is an appropriate Independent Study advisor

- The learning objectives and expected deliverables of the Study

Information Regarding INI Petitions:

<https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/>

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

The project proposal must include the following components:

**Overview and justification:** Describe your project topic and the expected outcomes. In addition, you must provide justification as to why an Independent Study is the best way to study this topic, what specific learning objectives are targeted, why the expected outcomes demonstrate achievement of the learning objectives and why these outcomes justify the requested number of credit units. You must also justify your choice of faculty to serve as the advisor/mentor for the Independent Study. Include sufficient details to convince INI that this Independent Study proposal should be approved.

**Milestones and deliverables:** Provide a preliminary list of the tasks or milestones that you expect to accomplish through your Independent Study. In addition, you must briefly describe the deliverables and justify their value towards the specified number of credit units and duration of the Independent Study (e.g., mini or full semester). In particular, you should specify what presentations, papers or other artifacts will be delivered to the faculty advisor.

**Evaluation of the student's work:** Provide a detailed plan for how the faculty advisor will monitor and evaluate your work. This plan must address:

- How you and your faculty advisor will track progress toward deliverables
- How the work done will match the number of credit units being earned
- How your grade will be determined



**Expected timetable:** You should indicate milestones that will be met through the process either by week or dates. You should be as specific as possible to assist in the progression and evaluation of the project.

**Letter of support from advisor:** The independent study advisor must provide a signed letter to verify that they agree:

- To advise the independent study,
- To oversee your work and provide relevant feedback and evaluation to you and the department; and
- To other content provided in the independent study proposal.

## RESTRICTIONS

You can complete an Independent Study for up to 12 units and no less than 6 units. Typically, an Independent Study that will be completed in a mini semester is worth 6 units, and an Independent Study that will be completed in a full semester is worth 12 units. The units assigned may vary depending on the scope of the independent study.

*You are allowed to take a maximum of 18 total units of Independent Study credit during your degree program.*

An Independent Study can count as a general program elective.

MSIT-IS and MSMITE students may count a semester-long Independent Study towards residency only if the student and faculty advisor are both located in Silicon Valley for the duration of the independent study.

*Please note that the Independent Study course cannot be taken pass/no pass or for audit.*

Additionally, students who are on probation will not be approved for Independent Study.

## APPENDIX C: MASTER'S THESIS / PROJECT

### MASTER'S THESIS / MASTER'S PROJECT TECHNICAL REPORT TIMELINE:

#### GUIDELINES

Students who select the Advanced Study or Applied Advanced Study option may choose to complete one of the following curriculum options with a Carnegie Mellon University faculty advisor and reader: a master's thesis or a master's project that culminates in a technical report. You may either work with faculty on the faculty member's current research/projects or work on a project you propose with the support of your advisor and reader. **Note that this study option requires a significant level of independent work; students are responsible for securing an advisor and identifying a research area and topic.**

You should discuss your timeline and time commitment with the faculty advisor during the proposal stage to determine how many units of work will be completed in a given semester. The total units (36) are typically distributed across the third and fourth semester, for example, by completing 12 units in the third semester and 24 units in the fourth semester. The unit assignment should be directly addressed in the proposal. Depending on how your units are distributed, you may be able to take additional courses in the fourth semester.

If completing a master's thesis or project, we encourage students to complete this requirement over two semesters. If students want to complete all 36 units in one semester, they must do so in consultation with their INI faculty advisor and project advisor.

For detailed information, please refer to the master's thesis and master's project guidelines webpage:  
[https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/graduate\\_project.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/graduate_project.html)

<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Action(s)</i>
<i>Proposal Preparation phase</i>	Identify a research topic and subject area/s of interest, as well as potential project advisors.
<i>By the 'Semester Course Add Deadline' (10<sup>th</sup> day) of the second semester</i>	Acquire the project advisor's approval (signature)
<i>Two weeks prior to the end of the second semester</i>	Submit the Signature Page and Proposal to Academic and Student Services team
<i>3 weeks before the last day of class in defending semester</i>	Submit Defense Scheduling Form and Video Consent Form to Academic and Student Services team
<i>1 week before the last day of class in defending semester</i>	Defend
<i>10 days before the Final Grades deadline for graduating students</i>	Acquire the project advisor's approval and then submit Thesis/Technical Report and Signature Page to Academic and Student Services team for approval by the INI and/or college.

## APPENDIX D: INTERNSHIPS

Students who elect either the Applied or Applied Advanced Study options must complete an internship and will be enrolled in the Canvas Internship Course. An internship is considered employment, paid or unpaid, related to the student's academic program.

The following employment opportunities are acceptable to satisfy the internship requirement, though other options may be approved upon review:

- an off-campus company anywhere in the U.S.
- a company in another country
- an RA supervised by a faculty researcher at a U.S. university (e.g., performing research)

*You must obtain prior approval from the INI Academic and Student Services team following the stipulated guidelines in order to accept any internship, inside or outside the U.S.* Students who accept or begin an internship without prior INI approval may not be registered or receive course credit, which will impact your ability to graduate.

Volunteer work must also be reviewed to obtain formal department approval as a suitable internship. Volunteer work rarely meets internship requirements. All relevant internship guidelines, processes and policies will apply.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

All internships require formal INI approval. Before formally accepting any type of work intended to satisfy the internship requirement, you should obtain formal INI approval first. Otherwise, if a position is accepted and determined unacceptable, you would not be able to complete the internship. All internship employment offers must meet INI standards in order to receive credit for completing the internship requirement.

Once a student submits an offer from a specific company and formally accepts an approved internship offer, no new employment offers will be reviewed by the INI for

approval. **Students may not renege an accepted internship offer unless formally approved by the INI.** Failure to obtain such approval may negatively affect completion of the internship requirement which will impact the ability to graduate.

Students are expected to complete the internship during the summer. If you are unable to find an acceptable summer internship, you may petition to complete the requirement in the fall or spring semesters with prior approval to submit a petition. The preferred number of hours for work in the summer semester is 40 hours per week or full-time as designated by the hiring company. Students permitted to undertake their internship during the fall or spring semester may only work part-time, which is a maximum of 20 hours per week (unless otherwise restricted by funding or scholarship requirements). *Please consult the INI Internship Team if you have questions about the timing or requirements of your internship.*

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students accepting off-campus internships in the U.S. may obtain work authorization for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) provided eligibility requirements have been met. They may also choose to apply for Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), though it is not recommended due to longer than normal estimated USCIS processing times.

For additional information about CPT and OPT, international, refer to [Ch. VI International Students](#).

### INTERNSHIP OFFER LETTER

The primary criterion of all internships is that the work is relevant to your program of study. You are required to obtain a job offer letter from the company, faculty member or other representative offering the position.

In order to receive full department approval, work authorization, course registration, and credit for completion of the internship, students must submit a

**comprehensive letter (either as an initial or supplemental offer letter) provided by the employer** on company letterhead. All information listed below is required:

- Student name (first/last) and current address
- The company's name
- Start date (for CPT authorization this may be no earlier than the first day of the internship semester; does not apply to domestic students)
- End date (for CPT authorization this may be no later than the last day of final exams unless a formal exception is applied by the INI; or the last day of the semester for domestic students, work outside the U.S., or other employment not requiring work authorization)
- Number of hours of work per week (specific hours, e.g., 40/week or part-time, full-time) \*
- Work location address (street address, city, state, zip code; note should be made if student will work remotely)
- Internship job title
- Brief description of a student's position/responsibilities
- Name of student's supervisor
- Supervisor's phone number and email (preferably before the internship start date)
- A signature on the letter, with the title of the person who signed it

*\*If you complete your internship in the fall or spring semester, you are only allowed to work up to 20 hours per week (unless otherwise restricted by your funding or scholarship requirements).*

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Canvas Internship Course includes assignments that must be completed as part of satisfaction of the internship requirement.

Details regarding the final deliverable for the INI Internship course will be provided in the course syllabus.

All deliverables must be met in order to receive a passing grade.

All internships will be taken as a Pass/No Pass, 3-unit course. A grade will be assigned upon receipt and review of all submitted documents, including all documents required for internship approval, confirmation of course registration, an internship summary form submitted by the hiring company primary supervisor/contact, the student's summary essay, the final deliverable set forth in the INI Internship course syllabus, and completion of all assignments in the Internship Canvas Course.