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# INI STUDENT HANDBOOK

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FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION NETWORKING (MSIN),  
THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION SECURITY (MSIS) AND THE BICOASTAL MASTER OF  
SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (MSIT) PROGRAMS\*.

2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

INFORMATION NETWORKING INSTITUTE (INI)

College of Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University

Version 1.5

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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### **Welcome to the Information Networking Institute (INI) and Carnegie Mellon University!**

The INI is pleased to welcome the incoming class for fall 2018, the MS30! Our students are at the core of the INI's mission "to educate and develop engineers through professional, interdisciplinary master's programs." The purpose of the INI Student Handbook is to present guidelines and set expectations for students as they pursue their degrees. This handbook is not exhaustive and its contents are subject to modification by the INI administration.

It is the responsibility of each student to read and understand this handbook.

#### **Essential Guidelines**

The INI website provides an online version of the INI Student Handbook in its Student Resources section, available at: [http://www.ini.cmu.edu/current\\_students/index.html](http://www.ini.cmu.edu/current_students/index.html). In addition to the handbook, commonly used forms, guidelines and links to web pages for students are also available there.

Students are encouraged to seek support and assistance. For academic guidance and personal issues, the INI faculty and staff members are available through the contact information at the following link: <http://www.ini.cmu.edu/people/index.html>.

As members of the INI community, enrolled students are a part of the College of Engineering, traditionally known as the Carnegie Institute of Technology (CIT), and should become familiar with the policies and guidelines of the college. The College of Engineering's policies for graduate students are available online: <https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic-policies/graduate-policies/index.html>.

*It is the responsibility of students to follow the appropriate course sequence, progressing through their degree program and completing the necessary requirements in order to be successful.*

*In addition, the INI director has the discretion to authorize and impose sanctions if a student exhibits inappropriate behavior or conduct, if they act against the advice of their academic advisor, and with regard to general issues that may arise as deemed necessary.*

#### **Student Communications**

It is important that students read and understand all communications that come from the INI to ensure they are aware of academic policies, processes, and deadlines. The department utilizes a Canvas site called "INI All Student HUB" to share key information with students, including but not limited to: curricular and enrollment updates, director's announcements, career services, conferences and professional development opportunities, workshops and events, and student volunteer opportunities. Students are enrolled in the Canvas site each academic year.

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

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.

### **Additional Important Student Resources**

While this handbook is specific to the academic experience at the INI, there are several other resources and offices that graduate students are encouraged to consult during their tenure at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). Information about The Word, the student handbook, the Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education, the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, and others are included in Appendix A of this handbook.

It is the responsibility of each member in the Carnegie Mellon community to be familiar with university policies and guidelines.

Several pertinent university policies are included in this handbook, primarily found in section IX, "University Policies." All university policies are available online at:

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

For additional assistance in understanding community expectations, the following resources are particularly relevant to INI students:

- The Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education. Website: [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. Website: [www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/index.html).
- Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities. Contact Disability Resources, [eos@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:eos@andrew.cmu.edu).
- Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence. Website: [www.cmu.edu/teaching](http://www.cmu.edu/teaching).
- Graduate Student Assembly. Website: [www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/index.html).
- Intercultural Communication Center. Website: [www.cmu.edu/icc](http://www.cmu.edu/icc).
- Office of International Education. Website: <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/>
- Counseling & Psychological Service. Website: <https://www.cmu.edu/counseling/>
- Health Services. Website: [www.cmu.edu/HealthServices](http://www.cmu.edu/HealthServices).
- University Police. Website: [www.cmu.edu/police](http://www.cmu.edu/police).
- The Word (student online handbook). Website: <http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword>
- Academic Integrity Website: [www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity)
- University Policies Website: [www.cmu.edu/policies/](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/)

Please refer to Appendix A for additional information about each of the aforementioned resources.

## II. PRE-MATRICULATION

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This section presents guidelines for accepted students prior to matriculation into their programs.

### A. DEFERRAL

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The INI generally does not allow admission deferrals because admission decisions are based on the current applicant pool. Students are only admitted into the program for a particular academic year.

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

### B. APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY

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Please note: it is the responsibility of the applicant to 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 the offer of admission or continued enrollment at any time during matriculation or subsequent attendance.

Applicants admitted to any INI program must submit proof of graduation in the manner stipulated by the INI. Proof of graduation is defined as submission of complete and final official undergraduate transcripts showing all semesters of attendance, as well as official certificates confirming both the satisfactory completion of the program of study and conferral of the bachelor's degree. The INI provides instructions for meeting these requirements to admitted applicants who have accepted enrollment. Failure to provide acceptable proof of graduation prior to the start of classes in the term of entry will nullify the admission offer.

Extension of the proof of graduation deadline may be granted on a case-by-case basis.

### C. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATIONS

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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.

### D. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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Students enrolled in any course at Carnegie Mellon prior to matriculation to the INI are required to complete an academic integrity module in the summer prior to matriculation and read, sign, and return the Academic Integrity form to the INI Academic Affairs Office. Infractions that occur in the summer semester prior to matriculation will count as a first offense by the INI.

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. The policy is available online at:

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

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. This is available online at: <https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/academic-discipline/index.html>.

## E. SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

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's policy on academic integrity.

If a student violates the Carnegie Mellon University Policy on Academic Integrity, they are no longer eligible for the scholarship and/or financial award, and it will be rescinded in the semester the incident occurs and in future semesters through the duration of the program. At least one installment of any INI-specific scholarship will be rescinded. For instances where the academic integrity violation occurs after the third semester of study, the third installment of the scholarship and/or financial award would be rescinded.

## F. INI GRADUATE ONBOARDING COURSE

Incoming students will be required to access the INI's graduate onboarding course, which provides pertinent department and university information for incoming students. Students are required to review the assigned modules and complete assignments. All students must have the assignments completed by the start of the fall semester.

# III. ENROLLMENT & REGISTRATION

## A. OVERVIEW

After accepting the INI's offer of admission, students should create an academic plan and register for courses.

Students should actively engage in this process by reviewing degree requirements on the website, researching courses, connecting with their program's academic advisor, conferring with a mentor, or contacting the INI Academic Affairs Office (INI AAO). Once plans are firm, students can proceed by accessing Student Information Online (SIO).



SIO is an important online tool to use during the registration process, as well as throughout graduate school (for updating address information, etc.). Students can access SIO with their Andrew ID. SIO is available through the HUB's web site: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/>.

Within SIO, there is a Course Planning Module that allows students to view and modify their proposed schedule before registering for courses. Once a schedule is developed, it is the student's responsibility to register for courses using SIO. Students must be registered for every course that they plan to take for the semester, even if it is not taken for credit (e.g., audited courses).

After the first semester, a student's registration time is determined by the Registrar's Office. If a student's account balance is greater than \$0.00, the student will not be able to register.

The INI AAO is available to answer any questions that students may have during the registration process.

## B. PREPARING AN ACADEMIC PLAN

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### 1. Student Responsibility

It is the sole responsibility of the student to manage the academic progression of their program. Students are expected to ensure that they are taking the necessary prerequisites and courses to complete degree requirements on time. Curriculum and degree requirements can be found in Section V, "Degree Requirements."

If a student is not progressing as expected, they must seek advice and counsel from their academic advisor. If the student is concerned that they may be unable to complete degree requirements, they should contact the INI AAO at: [ini-enrollment@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-enrollment@andrew.cmu.edu) for assistance.

### 2. Degree Requirements Timeframe

Students must complete their degree requirements within the elected time frame 20-months (4 semesters). All students in this cohort (MS30) must enter the INI with the expectation of graduating in May 2020.

In order to have full-time status, students must enroll in at least 36 units. Students will need to enroll in 36-48 units per semester. Students cannot enroll in more than 48 units per semester.

Students have the option to enroll in courses during the summer semester; however, this is not mandatory, with the exception of the required summer internship.

Students must be physically present and attend class at the start of the semester. If extenuating circumstances exist that prevent a student from arriving to campus at the start of the semester, the student must notify their academic advisor immediately. Attendance from the start of the semester is crucial towards a student's progress in their program and an extended absence, especially at the beginning, will have a detrimental impact. The INI verifies that all students have

arrived to begin their program. A student is considered “withdrawn from the university” if they are not here by the tenth day of class.

### 3. Statute of Limitations

Former INI students who did not fulfill graduation requirements and would like to return to complete a degree should refer to the statute of limitations in the College of Engineering Graduate Student Policy, available at the following link:

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

The policy specifies that, “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.”

### 4. Course Availability

The INI cannot guarantee that courses will be offered each semester or in a specific semester. Students must refer to the ‘Schedule of Classes (SOC)’ to determine course availability. In addition, the INI cannot guarantee that a student will be offered a seat in a specific course. This applies to courses offered by the INI as well as other departments at Carnegie Mellon.

### 5. Course Sequence

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. Specific details are provided under the Degree Requirements section.

If a core course or an elective course has a prerequisite, then students must fulfill it first. If a student does not have the prerequisite course or knowledge, then they must consult with the instructor, as it is at the discretion of the instructor to decide if a prerequisite course or the knowledge can be waived.

In addition, students should not take an introductory level course after they have taken a more advanced course on a topic. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A student who has already taken 18-756 Packet Switching and Computer Networks should not take the following courses after the fact:
  - 14-740 Fundamentals of Telecommunications and Computer Networks, or
  - 18-345 Introduction to Telecommunication Networks
- A student who has already taken 15-719: Advanced Cloud Computing should not take 15-619: Cloud Computing in a following semester.

It is the students’ responsibility to ensure that they follow the appropriate course sequence. When in doubt, students should consult with their academic advisor.

### 6. Placing of Courses within Degree Requirements

Courses taken will be applied to the degree requirements in the following order: first as core, if not applicable; then as course option, if not applicable; then as restricted elective, if not applicable; then as an extra course that does not fulfill degree requirements.

For example, 14-814: Wireless Network Security, is a popular course that can be considered as a core course for MSIN, MSIS, or MSIT-IS, restrictive elective for all programs, or as a course option course for MSIN and MSIS students. For programs in which it is considered a core course, 14-814 will be counted towards the core course requirements unless it is approved within the course option or another core course that fulfills that same requirement is completed with a higher letter grade. Students may meet with a member of the INI AAO to review how their courses have been applied to their degree requirements.

## 7. Overlapping Courses

Students will not receive credit toward degree requirements for a course that overlaps in content with another course that the student completed. However, every course taken will be factored into a student's cumulative GPA.

To view the list of courses that the INI considers to have overlapping content, please visit: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>. This is not an exhaustive list, as departments add new courses every year. If students have any uncertainty regarding this, they should contact the INI AAO via email: [ini-enrollment@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-enrollment@andrew.cmu.edu).

## 8. Course Restrictions

### a. Non-College of Engineering Course Limitations

As College of Engineering students, course selections should reflect the students' advanced knowledge of technology. Guidelines to course selections are provided under the Degree Requirements section.

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 following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>. Course selections from the Tepper School are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. When in doubt of course selections, students should consult with their academic advisor.

There are a select few graduate courses that cannot be counted towards degree requirements because their course content covers material that is prerequisite knowledge for admission to the INI. Furthermore, courses that are questionable and not listed should be discussed with the student's academic 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 below in section "Courses Outside Degree Requirements."

### b. Undergraduate Course Limitations

Students are limited to 36 units of undergraduate coursework (courses numbered 300-599) that can be applied toward degree requirements.

### c. Petition Procedure

INI students are required to submit an [INI Petition Form](#) for independent study, course consideration for track course requirements, updating approved course option list, increase in units, course substitutions, and any other changes that are outside of the policies stated in the student handbook. When preparing a petition, students should ensure that they include specific and valid reasons for submitting the petition. In addition, if the student's petition is about a class they must include the course syllabus.

1. The student completes a petition form and submits it to the [INI Academic Affairs Office \(AAO\)](#).
2. The INI AAO 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 Director if necessary.
4. The INI AAO informs the student of the outcome via email, typically within a week.
5. Students 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 to [ini-enrollment@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-enrollment@andrew.cmu.edu).
  - a. *Please note: Petitions to the director must be submitted within seven days of the initial decision for consideration.*
6. The INI AAO saves the finalized petition in the student's file.

## 9. Retaking a Course

If students do not pass a core course, they 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, 14-760, or 15-641.

Retaking a course would also be necessary if students do not meet the core GPA requirement. If students have a core GPA that is lower than 3.0, they will need to retake courses that would help them satisfy this requirement.

Students may also have to retake a prerequisite course in which they 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. The original grade remains in place as a core requirement until the new grade is published.

## 10. Courses Outside Degree Requirements

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

1. Courses that are considered pre-requisite to admission to the INI include:

- a. 08-722/17-683: Data Structures for Application Programmers
- b. 17-630: Data Structures and Algorithms for Engineers
2. Heinz Courses that are not on the pre-approved list provided on the INI website, available at: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>
3. StuCo courses (Student Taught Courses)
4. Courses not directly related to a student's degree program
5. Audited courses
6. Pass/no pass courses

If a student chooses to register for one of above courses, the units will count towards the course load for that semester regardless of whether it counts towards degree requirements or any of the cases above. For example, if a student registers for a course that cannot count towards degree requirements, such as in the examples above, then they must petition for approval to take the course within the first 10 days of classes. If the course has not been approved via petition, the AAO will drop the course from their schedule or a withdrawal will be applied if the drop deadline has passed.

Students may take no more than 12 units per semester that do not satisfy degree requirements. The only exceptions are Student College (StuCo) and physical education courses. Students can take up to two consecutive, nonconcurrent StuCo and physical education courses. For example, if a student chooses to take a yoga class in mini-1 and a StuCo course in mini-2, that would be allowed. A student cannot register for both the yoga class and the StuCo class within the same mini.

Auditing and pass/no pass courses are described further in this section.

#### a. 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 a student's transcript.

A student who wants to audit a course is required to register for the course, obtain permission from the instructor, and ask the instructor to sign the Course Audit Approval Form. The student must submit this form and a petition to the INI AAO for approval from the student's academic advisor and the INI Director. If approved, the INI AAO will send the form to The HUB for processing. The Course Audit Approval Form as well as all other HUB forms are available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>.

Once a Course Audit Approval Form is submitted to the HUB, a letter grade ('A' - 'R') will not be assigned for the course and the declaration cannot be reversed. There is a deadline for the audit form submission on the academic calendar. After the deadline, students will not be able to request the option to audit a course.

The extent of a student's participation must be arranged and approved by the course instructor. Students auditing a course are expected to attend class as though they are regular class members. Those who do not attend the class regularly or prepare themselves for class will receive a blank grade. Otherwise, the student receives the grade of 'O,' indicating an audit.

The units of audited courses count toward the maximum course load units per semester but do not count toward the degree requirements.

Any student may request to audit a course. 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.

#### b. Taking a Course “Pass/No Pass”

Students who want to take a course “pass/no pass” are required to register for the course and submit the Pass/No Pass Approval Form and a petition to the INI AAO for approval from their academic advisor and the INI Director. If approved, the INI will send the form to The HUB for processing. The Pass/No Pass Approval Form, as well as all other HUB forms, are available at: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>.

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

Once a Pass/No Pass Approval Form is submitted to the HUB, a letter grade (‘A’- ‘R’) is not assigned for the course and the declaration cannot be reversed. 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.

There is a deadline for Pass/No Pass Approval Form submission on the academic calendar. After the deadline, students will not be able to request the option to “pass/no pass” a course.

Any student may request 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.

### 11. Transfer of Credit

Up to 24 units of courses taken at another university, whether taken before or after entering the INI graduate program, may be transferred and count as electives, providing:

- a) They fulfill an INI graduate program requirement;
- b) They are graduate-level courses at the university where they were taken; and
- c) They have not been used to fulfill requirements for any previously earned degree.

A grade of ‘B’ or better must be earned for the courses transferred. 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 the student’s degree requirements. The transfer credits will appear on the student’s transcript as an INI elective and are not factored into the core or cumulative GPAs.

Transfer credit is not granted prior to admission to the graduate program and must be approved by the INI and the College of Engineering Dean’s Office after the student has satisfactorily

completed at least 36 units of graduate courses at Carnegie Mellon. After matriculating to Carnegie Mellon, INI students should consult with their academic advisor before taking a course at another university.

Students 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 AAO. Information regarding petitions can be found on our website: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/>. Students may be required to show proof that the course(s) they want to transfer were not used to fulfill requirements for any previously earned degree. In addition, the student must complete the Graduate Transfer Credit Request Form, located with the College of Engineering graduate student policies at the following link: <https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic-policies/graduate-policies/registration-grading-credit.html#transfer-credit-&-special-students>. The INI, not the student, will forward the appropriate information to the Dean's Office for approval.

The university's policy on Transfer Credit Evaluation and Assignment is available at the following link: [www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/TransferCredit.html](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/TransferCredit.html).

a. 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). The HUB provides PCHE registration information at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/registration/cross/>.

## 12. Independent Study

Please refer to Appendix B: Independent Study.

## C. REGISTERING FOR COURSES

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### 1. Academic Calendar

The INI adheres to the university's academic calendar, available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/calendar/index.html>.

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. INI students must adhere to these deadlines if they are taking courses from these colleges.

The Heinz College's calendar is available at the following link: <http://www.heinz.cmu.edu/academic-resources/academic-calendar/index.aspx>.

The Tepper School's calendar is available at the following link: <http://tepper.cmu.edu/>

- "My Tepper" can be found at: <http://mytepper.tepper.cmu.edu/>.

## 2. Course Load

Students must register for at least 36 units per semester, as that is considered full-time. Students can take a maximum of 48 units per semester, excluding physical education and StuCo courses. In order to make adequate progress towards their degree, students are required to take a minimum of 36 units towards degree requirements each semester, excluding summer.

The AAO will randomly remove a course (or courses) from the student's schedule after the tenth day of classes (excluding mini-2/mini-4 course work) to revert a student's course load to 48 units. Physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the 48 unit maximum; however, the INI AAO will remove any course that exceeds the 12 unit maximum per semester for courses that fall in this category. The AAO will randomly remove a course from the student's schedule if a petition has not been approved prior to tenth day of classes to overload. The AAO completes an audit following the add deadline. If the AAO identifies an overload after this deadline, the student will need to withdraw from the course and a "W" will appear on their final transcript if it is after the drop deadline.

Students must complete their degree requirements within 20-months (4 semesters). Finishing early is dependent on one's individual performance within their program of study. Some students are able to finish the required course work in three semesters (Fall 1, Spring 1, Fall 2) and will be certified for graduation in the second fall provided they meet all program requirements, as determined by the INI AAO and the program advisor. This requires the student to take a minimum of 48 units each semester, which they may find challenging. If a student wants to finish in 16 months, they should discuss this with their program advisor early on in their program. In addition, if a student is on track to graduate in three semesters, they must petition to graduate one semester early by the mid-semester. Once the petition is approved, the student record is updated to indicate the new anticipated graduation date and the student is expected to complete requirements in the semester specified in the petition.

Please note: if students are unable to complete their program by the second fall, regardless of how many units of coursework are remaining, students are still required to register full-time in the spring, at a minimum of 36 units. INI students are not permitted to drop below full-time course load (less than 36 units).

Students have the option to complete courses during the summer semester; however, with the exception of the mandatory summer internship, this is optional and not encouraged. There will be an additional charge to the tuition for courses taken during the summer semester.

## 3. Adding Courses

Students should consult with their academic advisor before adding or dropping courses to ensure their academic plan will not be jeopardized. Students have the option of adding courses to their schedule from the time of their assigned registration until the add deadline in the semester. Students may register for courses through [SIO](#).

## 4. Dropping Courses



Students should consult with their academic advisor before adding or dropping courses to ensure their course plan will not be jeopardized. Students have the option of dropping courses from their schedule from the time of their assigned registration until the drop deadline in the semester. Students may do this through [SIO](#).

Students should drop a course as soon as they decide not to take it, especially within the first 10 days of class, as this will allow a waitlisted student to be enrolled and limit disruption to any team-based projects. It is imperative that students drop the courses they will not pursue by the drop deadline so that the courses will be removed from their student record. If a student does not drop a course by the drop deadline, they have the option to withdraw from the course, but should note that it will result in the student receiving a 'W' on their transcript. Additionally, the student has the option to utilize one drop voucher per year of study. If the drop deadline has passed, students can petition to use their drop voucher up until the last day of class. If a student neither drops nor withdraws from a course on time, a letter grade will be assigned based on work completed.

Students will be responsible for the tuition charge for any course dropped after the add/drop deadline to receive tuition adjustment.

## 5. Waitlists

It is common to be waitlisted for a course from the time of registration until the tenth 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.

Students should attend courses for which they have been waitlisted until their enrollment in the course has been finalized to ensure that assignments are not missed. Students may only be waitlisted for a maximum of five courses.

Students should check their schedules frequently on SIO as they 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.

## 6. 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 instructor of the course, all other students will be put on the waiting list and enrolled as space becomes available.

## D. PROGRAM TRANSFER

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

Students wishing to transfer from one INI program to another must discuss this with their current academic advisor first. Students must also consult with the academic advisor of the program they are interested in transferring to, following the meeting with their current academic advisor. Only after meeting with both advisors should a student submit a petition. If the student still wants to initiate the transfer request following their meeting, they must submit a petition to the INI with a compelling reason for the transfer. Information regarding petitions can be found on our website: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/>.

Program transfer requests should be made as early as possible, so that the student can successfully fulfill the appropriate sequence of courses and satisfy their degree requirements. A late transfer request could result in a longer program duration and tuition ramifications. A decision will not be rendered until after an academic performance evaluation of the student's first semester can be made. Financial aid and scholarships are awarded based on admission to a particular program and may not be transferrable.

International students, please refer to Section D, "International Students" for further details regarding program transfers.

#### E. FINAL EXAMS

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All INI students must attend final exams as scheduled by the university and individual course instructors. If a student believes that a final exam presents a scheduling conflict, they must 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 and note that having purchased airline tickets is not a proper excuse for missing a final exam.

#### F. RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR) EDUCATION

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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). Students who fail to complete this training before arriving for the fall semester will be required to take the training during Orientation, as coordinated through the INI staff.

The College of Engineering Graduate Student Policy provides the following instructions, "For College of Engineering graduate students, the CITI physical science module package is recommended rather than the module package for engineers, although both are acceptable."

“The courses are available at CITI’s website at <https://www.citiprogram.org/>. Select Carnegie Mellon University as your participating institution when you create your account.”

This topic is described fully in the College of Engineering Graduate Student Policy at the following link: <https://engineering.cmu.edu/education/academic-policies/graduate-policies/index.html>.

## G. RESEARCH ASSISTANT/TEACHING ASSISTANT POSITIONS

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A limited number of INI Research Assistant (RA) positions are assigned to incoming students every year. These assignments are made during the admission process, and a letter will notify the selected students. In addition to completing the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training, as described in the previous section, RAs may be required to complete additional training at the discretion of their supervisor. The INI Business Operations Office and the INI AAO will provide more information on the RA process to each candidate individually.

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. The full university policy can be reviewed at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/faculty/evaluation-certification-english-fluency-instructors.html>. All students who are selected for TA positions and are non-native English speakers must take the International Teaching Assistant Test (ITA Test) conducted by the Intercultural Communication Center (ICC) before they start working as a TA.

Additionally, in order to be eligible for a TA position for an INI course, students 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.

The INI Business Operations Office will communicate more information about the ITA test and other TA 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.

## H. ENROLLMENT VERIFICATIONS

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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. Additional information about transcripts and verifications is available at: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/registrar/student-records/verifications/index.html>.

The INI may verify some limited information in the form of a letter, which may be suitable for some purposes, such as the verification of 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:  
[http://www.ini.cmu.edu/current\\_students/requests/index.html](http://www.ini.cmu.edu/current_students/requests/index.html).

## I. CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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INI students are responsible for notifying the INI and The HUB of all address changes in a timely manner. Students will be held 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.

Students can change their address using SIO: <https://s3.andrew.cmu.edu/sio/index.html>.

## J. DEGREE CERTIFICATION

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

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

Students should update their contact information, such as mailing address and email address, within SIO **before graduation**. Students should also review a proxy of their diploma in SIO to verify the information displayed there, such as the spelling of their name.

# IV. ACADEMIC STANDARDS

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## A. GRADES

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The INI will not release student records to an unauthorized party. Grades will not be released to any student, verbally or written.

### 1. University Grading Standards

This policy offers details concerning the university's grading principles for students taking courses and 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.

Carnegie Mellon's grading policy is available at the following link:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/grading.html>.

### 2. College of Engineering Grading Standards

The College of Engineering's grading policy is available at the following link:

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

#### a. College of Engineering Grading

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.

#### b. Grades Lower than 'C'

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

#### c. '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.

## B. ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

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### 1. Grade Point Average

In order to graduate, each student must have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 in:

- 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 toward graduate degree requirements; however, they will be calculated into the student's cumulative GPA.

### 2. Academic Standing

Good academic standing is defined by having a core GPA and cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 or above. A student will receive a warning letter for a GPA lower than 3.0 in the most recently completed semester but will remain in good academic standing if core and cumulative GPAs meet the minimum requirement. If a student is not in good academic standing, it is their responsibility to consult with their academic advisor in a timely manner.

A student can be in good academic standing and on probation at the same time due to incidents unrelated to their academic performance.

### 3. Academic Probation for Poor Performance

Students who do not meet minimum performance criteria may be placed on academic probation. The purpose of academic probation is to provide the additional support and

assistance necessary for adequate progress towards degree requirements. For more details about the College of Engineering's academic standards policy, please visit: <http://coursecatalog.web.cmu.edu/schools-colleges/collegeofengineering/#academicstandardstextcontainer>.

Throughout the semester, the INI reviews each student's academic performance and progress, including at tenth day of classes, mid-semester and end of semester. If a student is not enrolled in 36 units towards degree requirements each semester (excluding summer), the INI may place that student on academic probation until their performance in the program adheres with our stated course load policy.

Additionally, at the end of each semester, the INI AAO completes a review of each student's performance. GPA for academic review is computed based on the guidelines for graduation requirements. If a student has a core and/or cumulative GPA of less than 3.0, the student is immediately placed on academic probation.

Students who are notified that they are on academic probation are solely responsible for setting up a meeting with their academic advisor within 14 days. During the meeting, the student and their advisor must sign the letter and return it to the INI Director's Office within that 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

A student on academic probation will be removed from probation during the next end of semester academic review if their core and cumulative GPAs are 3.0 or higher at that time. The student's scholarship or financial award will be reinstated for future semesters if they are removed from probation; however, the amount that was rescinded will not be reapplied to the student's account.

A student may be permanently dropped from the INI if their core or cumulative GPA remains lower than 3.0 at the end of two consecutive full semesters. They will have an opportunity to appeal if this occurs. The first appeal must go to the Dean of the College of Engineering's office. A detailed summary of the graduate student appeals process can be found here: <http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/policies/appeal-grievance-procedures.html>.

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.

### C. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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Students at Carnegie Mellon 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. Please review the University Policy on Academic Integrity: <https://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/academic-integrity.html>. 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 (<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/academic-discipline/index.html>) 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.

### 1. Academic Integrity Violation

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

Additionally, the INI will send the student a notice of eligibility outlining the following: the student will no longer be eligible for financial awards and/or scholarships awarded by the INI (per Student Handbook Section II. Pre-Matriculation, Item E. Scholarships and Financial Awards), Teaching Assistant positions (per Student Handbook Section III. Enrollment & Registration, Item G. Research Assistant/Teaching Assistant Positions), and metacurricular opportunities and recognition (per Student Handbook Section VII. Metacurricular Opportunities and Recognition, Item A, B and C).

In accordance with university policy, a student who violates the academic integrity policy will not be permitted to drop the course in which the offense occurred in order to avoid penalty.

Details related to the academic integrity policy and the appeal process can be found here: <http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity/headernav/policies.html>.

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

If the student commits a second violation, the INI will recommend to the Academic Review Board that the student be permanently dropped from the INI and expelled from the university.

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## V. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

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This section outlines the degree requirements for our Pittsburgh-based programs, which includes the MSIN, MSIS, Integrated MSIN and Integrated MSIS, as well as for our bicoastal programs, which includes the MSIT-MOB and MSIT-IS.

Full program descriptions, curriculum, course descriptions and other details for all programs can be found on the INI website at <http://www.ini.cmu.edu/degrees/index.html>.

## A. PITTSBURGH-BASED PROGRAMS

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### 1. MSIN & MSIS

Each traditional MSIN and MSIS candidate must complete 144 units of course work.

These units are made up of the following degree requirements:

- Core courses: 72 units
- Restricted electives: 36 units
- Curriculum option: 36 units

Students who are completing the MSIN & MSIS degrees are required to complete an internship during the summer semester. Further information regarding this requirement can be found below in section d, “internship,” below.

These degree requirements are described in more detail on the pages that follow.

#### a. Core Courses

The MSIN and MSIS programs require 72 units of core courses that may not be waived or substituted. Please refer to each program’s web page for specific core course information:

[https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msin/curriculum\\_ms30.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msin/curriculum_ms30.html) (MSIN30)

[https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msis/curriculum\\_ms30.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msis/curriculum_ms30.html) (MSIS30)

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.

#### b. Restricted Electives

Students have the opportunity to pursue a wide range of electives in which they have a special interest. Of the 36 units required, 12 units must be from the INI (14-xxx), ECE (18-xxx) or CS (15-xxx) that are numbered 300 or above or from one of the following EPP courses: 19-608, 19-682, 19-712, 19-713 or 19-784.

The remaining 24 units can be fulfilled by any approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School or any courses\* in ECE, EPP, School of Computer Science, INI or III that are numbered 300 or above. Restricted electives may not be taken as pass/no pass/audit. In addition, students should select restricted electives that complement the core curriculum. Please note that only up to 36 units of undergraduate courses (300-599) can be considered toward degree requirements (between core and restricted elective courses).



The list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students can be found at the following website: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>.

\*Some exceptions apply. Please see section B10 for courses that cannot count towards degree requirements.

#### c. Curriculum Option

The MSIN and MSIS programs allow students to shape their degree according to their interests and career path by choosing one of the following curriculum options:

- **Thesis:** A traditional master's thesis will allow students to delve deeply into a problem and create a solution for a research-based project, offering them the opportunity to gain significant knowledge and skills in a particular area.
- **Technical Report:** A development-based project that will allow students to build up knowledge and skills in delivering successful solutions for industry.
- **Course Option:** A set of courses that will equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in industry.

These options are explained further at the end of this section.

Students will declare which curriculum option they want to pursue via the curriculum option form. The INI AAO will contact all students and ask them to submit the form when the INI AAO is ready to collect this information during the first spring semester.

Students who are opting to complete a thesis or technical report must adhere to the following timeline and complete the actions listed in Appendix C: Thesis/Technical Report.

#### i. Course Option

A student who selects this option will be required to take 36 units of courses that make up an area of specialization. Students can select from graduate-level courses (numbered 600 and above) in ECE, EPP, School of CS, SV and INI as well as approved courses offered in Heinz College and Tepper School. The academic advisor will review and approve the selection.

If a student wants to make any adjustments to their approved course option list, they must submit a petition requesting permission to do so. Information regarding petitions can be found on our website: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/index.html>.

#### d. Internship

All students must complete a summer internship as part of their core requirements. Completing an internship during the fall or spring semester is not permitted due to the academic rigor of INI programs. Please refer to Appendix D: Internships for detailed information.

#### e. Course Load Limit

There is a 48-unit maximum course load per semester for the MSIN and MSIS degree programs, which includes research units and any courses taken as pass/no pass or audit. Non-academic courses, such as physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the 48-unit maximum. Students can take up to 12 units of non-academic courses that fall in these categories each semester.

## 2. Integrated MSIN

Each Integrated MSIN candidate must complete 108 units of course work.

These units are made up of the following degree requirements:

- Core courses: 48 units
- Restricted electives: 24 units
- Curriculum option: 36 units

At least 90 out of the 108 units must be taken while the student is in graduate standing.

Courses that fulfilled undergraduate degree requirements cannot be applied to fulfill graduate degree requirements.

These degree requirements are described in more detail on the pages that follow.

### a. Core Courses

The INI waives 24 units of the traditional MSIN Networking & Systems core courses, based on successful completion of 15-410/15-605 Operating System Design and Implementation and 18-756 Packet Switching and Computer Networks, 14-740 Fundamentals of Telecommunications Networks, 18-441/18-741 Computer Networks, or 15-441/15-641 Computer Networks when the student is an undergraduate. As a result, the Integrated MSIN requires 48 units of core courses. Core courses may not be waived or substituted.

Please refer to the program's web page for specific core course information, available at the following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/integrated/index.html>.

### b. Restricted Electives

Students have the opportunity to pursue a wide range of electives in which they have a special interest.

The INI waives 12 units of restricted elective courses based on the successful completion of 18-349/14-642 Introduction to Embedded Systems when the student is an undergraduate. (Note: 18-348 Embedded System Engineering and 18-349 Embedded Real-Time Systems will be accepted as equivalents for 18-342.)

Of the 24 units required, 12 units must be from the INI (14-xxx), ECE (18-xxx) or CS (15-xxx) that is numbered 300 or above or one of the following EPP courses: 19-608, 19-682, 19-712, 19-713 or 19-784. The remaining 12 units of restricted electives can be fulfilled by any approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School or any courses\* in ECE, EPP, School of Computer Science, INI or III that are numbered 300 or above. Restricted electives may not be taken as pass/no pass

or audit. In addition, students should select restricted electives that complement the core curriculum.

Please refer to the list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students:

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

\*Some exceptions apply

#### c. Curriculum Option

Integrated MSIN students must fulfill the same curriculum option requirement as the traditional MSIN students. Please refer to Curriculum Option section.

#### d. Course Load Limit

For the Integrated MSIN program, there is a 48-unit maximum course load per semester, which includes research units and any courses taken as pass/no pass or audit. Non-academic courses, such as physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the 48-unit maximum. Students can take up to 12 units of non-academic courses that fall in these categories each semester.

### 3. Integrated MSIS

Each Integrated MSIS candidate must complete 108 units of course work.

These units are made up of the following degree requirements:

- Core courses: 36 units
- Restricted electives: 36 units
- Curriculum option: 36 units

At least 90 out of the 108 units must be taken while the student is in graduate standing.

Courses that fulfilled undergraduate degree requirements cannot be applied to fulfill graduate degree requirements.

These degree requirements are described in more detail on the pages that follow.

#### a. Core Courses

The INI waives 24 units of Networking & Systems core courses, based on successful completion of 15-410/15-605 Operating System Design and Implementation and 15-441/15-641 Computer Networks (or 18-345 Introduction to Telecommunication Networks, which is the undergraduate equivalent of 14-740 Fundamentals of Telecommunications Networks), 18-441/18-741 Computer Networks, or 18-756 Packet Switching and Computer Networks when the student is an undergraduate. Also, the INI waives 12 units of Security core courses, based on successful completion of 18-730 Introduction to Computer Security, 14-741/18-631 Introduction to Information Security, and 15-330/18-330 Introduction to Computer Security when the student is an undergraduate.

Please refer to the program's web page for specific core course information, available at the following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/integrated/index.html>.

#### b. Restricted Electives

Students have the opportunity to pursue a wide range of electives in which they have a special interest.

Of the 36 units required, 12 units must be from the INI (14-xxx), ECE (18-xxx) or CS (15-xxx) that are numbered 300 or above or one of the following EPP courses: 19-608, 19-682, 19-712, 19-713 or 19-784. The remaining 24 units of restricted electives can be fulfilled by any approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School or any courses\* in ECE, EPP, School of Computer Science, INI or III that are numbered 300 or above. Restricted electives may not be taken as pass/no pass/audit. In addition, students should select restricted electives that complement the core curriculum.

Please refer to the list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/courses.html>

\*Some exceptions apply

#### c. Curriculum Option

Integrated MSIS students must fulfill the same curriculum option requirement as the traditional MSIS students. Please refer to the Curriculum Option section.

#### d. Course Load Limit

For the Integrated MSIS program, there is a 48-unit maximum course load per semester, which includes research units and any courses taken as pass/no pass or audit.

## B. BICOASTAL PROGRAMS

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### 1. Bicoastal MSIT-MOB and MSIT-IS

Each bicoastal MSIT candidate (MSIT-MOB, MSIT-IS) must complete 144 units of course work. We are required to provide a school catalog as a part of the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009, as the bicoastal MSIT program partially takes place in California. Our school catalog is available at the following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msit/bppeact.html>

These units are made up of the following degree requirements:

- Shared Core courses: 36 units
- Track Core courses: 48 units
- Restricted Electives: 36 units
- Practicum: 24 units

Students who are completing the MSIT degree are required to complete an internship during the summer semester. This requirement is described in more detail in [1.f “Internship,”](#) located below.

Beginning with their second fall semester, bicoastal MSIT students must complete the remainder of their program in residence at the Silicon Valley campus. The MSIT degree requirements are described in more detail on the pages that follow.

#### a. Shared Core Courses

The bicoastal MSIT programs require students to complete 36 units of shared core courses that may not be waived or substituted.

The MSIT students must take the following shared core courses within the first two semesters: 14-740 OR 18-756 OR 15-641, 14-741 OR 18-730, and 14-776.

Please refer to the program’s web page for specific core course information at the following link: [https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msit/curriculum\\_ms30.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/academics/msit/curriculum_ms30.html).

#### b. Degree-Specific Courses

The degree-specific courses are specific to the areas of mobility and information security. These courses are part of the core curriculum and are calculated in the core GPA. A list of possible approved courses is available on the website at:

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

A student may submit a petition along with the current syllabus to have it considered as a track course if a course is not on the list of approved courses. Information regarding petitions can be found on our website: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/index.html>.

#### c. Restricted Electives

Students have the opportunity to pursue a wide range of electives in which they have a special interest. Students must complete 36 units of restricted electives that can be fulfilled by any approved courses in the Heinz College or Tepper School or any courses\* in ECE, EPP, School of Computer Science, INI or III that are numbered 300 or above. Restricted electives may not be taken as pass/no pass/audit. In addition, students should select restricted electives that complement the core curriculum. Up to 36 units of undergraduate courses (300-599) can be considered toward degree requirements (between core and restricted elective courses).

Please refer to the list of approved Heinz College courses for INI students:

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

\*Some exceptions apply

#### d. MSIT Practicum

Students must complete the 24-unit MSIT practicum while at the Silicon Valley campus during their second fall semester. Students are assigned to a project based on their background skills and project preferences, and students cannot drop the course or switch teams once assigned. The overall goal of the course is to gain experience working as a team on a technical, real-world

problem of interest to the project sponsor while incorporating a variety of technical and non-technical skills in supporting the project and team. While the practicum involves an industry, academic, or government sponsor, it does not involve employment with the sponsoring organization.

#### e. Residency Requirement

Students are required to fulfill a residency requirement as part of the bicoastal MSIT degree. Residency is defined as being physically present on the Silicon Valley campus and physically attending classes. Courses taken virtually online will not fulfill the residency requirement. Beginning with their second fall semester, students must complete the remainder of their program in residence at the Silicon Valley campus.

#### f. Internship

All students must complete a summer internship as part of their core requirements. Completing an internship during the fall or spring semester is not permitted due to the academic rigor of INI programs. Please refer to Appendix D: Internships for detailed information.

#### g. Course Load Limit

There is a 48-unit maximum course load per semester. This includes research units and any courses taken as pass/no pass or audit. Non-academic courses, such as physical education and StuCo courses are not included in the 48-unit maximum. Students can take up to 12 units of non-academic courses that fall in these categories each semester.

### C. CYBER FORENSICS AND INCIDENT RESPONSE TRACK

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The Cyber Forensics and Incident Response Track (CyFIR) is made up of the following courses:

- 14-761 Applied Information Assurance (prerequisite to all other track courses)
- 14-822 Host-Based Forensics
- 14-823 Network Forensics
- 14-832 Cyber Forensics and Incident Response Capstone

The track results in a CyFIR certificate issued from the CERT Division. Students must devote a security elective (12 units) and the curriculum option (36 units) to satisfy this track. Students must successfully pass all of the CyFIR track courses in order to receive the certificate.

### D. CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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International students are able to pursue an INI program in the United States because they secure a student visa. Students should be aware of visa limitations, specifically concerning their ability to remain in the country. A student may be required to return to their home country within a short period of time if unforeseen circumstances cause a student to leave their graduate program, either temporarily or permanently.

#### 1. Course Load

Carnegie Mellon will only issue student visa paperwork for full-time student status, which is defined as at least 36 units per semester. The student visa and permit of stay will become null and void if a student fails to maintain full-time status in the fall and spring semesters. International students with F-1/J-1 visas are not required to register for a full-time course load during the summer unless stipulated by their curricular requirement.

For additional information about maintaining status, please refer to the Office of International Education (OIE) website: <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/maintain-legal-status/index.html>.

## 2. Length of Program

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

A student may request an extension, but approvals are limited to specific circumstances.

The rules governing the extension of an I-20 and length of the program follow:

- a) If allowable, extension of the I-20 can only be processed in the second fall semester.
- b) The allowable reasons for an I-20 extension are:
  - Delay caused by a change in major field of study
  - 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 documented illness(es). Provide documentation, if not already on file at OIE
  - Other (primarily used to indicate that student requires an additional semester to complete course requirements except when based on failure to progress)

**Delays caused by failing or dropping classes, academic probation or suspension are not allowable reasons for extension of a program of study.**

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>.

## 3. Poor Academic Performance

Students who fail to progress in their academic program will receive formal notification from the INI. The INI will start administrative proceedings that drop the student from their program of study following notification. The INI will also notify the University Registrar and OIE regarding

the student's change of status. This process will begin regardless of whether or not a student files an appeal.

This process may impact a student's I-20 status. The student must contact OIE **as soon as they have been notified**, so that they can be advised of implications and take the necessary next steps.

#### 4. Leave of Absence

A Leave of Absence Form, available at the following link, must be completed: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>. 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. Students must consult with OIE as part of any LOA proceedings. Further information regarding Carnegie Mellon's policy on student leave is available at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/student-and-student-life/student-leave.html>.

#### 5. Internships/Academic Training

All INI students must complete a summer internship as part of their core curricula. International students must obtain work authorization in order to work off-campus for any company located in the U.S. Work outside the U.S. is permitted and does not require work authorization. Work at CMU in a Research or Teaching Assistant position is also permitted and generally does not require work authorization but does require INI approval. Students may not begin any type of work until INI approval and, if necessary, work authorization is granted in order to receive credit for completing the internship requirement.

Students must satisfy the internship requirement in the summer of their first academic year; internships will not be authorized for either the fall or spring or the second summer.

The following rules apply to internships undertaken by international students holding an F-1 or J-1 visa.

- F-1 students may choose to apply for either Curricular or pre-completion Optional Practical Training (CPT or OPT) to obtain authorization for work in off-campus U.S. companies.
- CPT will not be approved beyond the last day of the summer semester as identified on the INI AAO calendar. Students using OPT may get approval to work until the last week before the start of fall classes.
- J-1 students sponsored through OIE must apply for Academic Training (AT) if working in the U.S. off-campus. They may also work outside the U.S. with prior approval, or at CMU, which may require on-campus work authorization.
- F-1 students with INI approval can accept work at CMU, which may require work authorization, or at a company outside the U.S., which does not require work authorization.
- All students must complete a summer internship as part of their core requirements. Completing an internship during the fall or spring semester is not permitted due to the academic rigor of the INI programs. The internship work responsibilities must be



relevant to the student's program of study in order to obtain INI approval for CPT work authorization.

- J-1 students sponsored by outside organizations such as Fulbright, must obtain Academic Training (AT) 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.
- The internship must be 12 weeks long (9 weeks at minimum if the student has difficulty finding a position).
- All students must have their supervisor complete an internship summary form one week before the internship end date.

Please note: Students who choose to apply for pre-completion OPT for their summer internship should anticipate a maximum of 90 days for processing through USCIS. Therefore, OPT work authorization must be initiated as early as three (3) months prior to the start of the summer semester in order to fulfill the 12-week internship requirement. In many cases, work authorization will have to be obtained before the student receives an internship job offer. The offer letter must contain all the previously stated information, and if the internship is found unacceptable, it will not be approved even if the student has already obtained OPT authorization. No allowance will be made for students who do not obtain OPT work authorization in time to meet the minimum 9-week internship requirement.

Students will be allowed to apply for pre-completion OPT in addition to their CPT request in order to extend their internship to the week prior to the start of classes. OPT cannot be extended into the fall semester.

International students undertaking a summer internship may only work during the summer session. All internships must end on the last day of summer classes (as determined by OIE) so that the INI has time to enter a Pass/Fail grade. Extensions are not permitted by OIE under any circumstances; however, students hired by companies that hire within a cohort may be permitted to obtain a later CPT end date. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis or will be automatically permitted for companies known to use this hiring method.

International students wishing to work part-time off-campus in their second fall or spring semester must apply for pre-completion OPT. CPT will not be approved under any circumstance. Work done under OPT cannot interfere with regular progress through the program.

MSIT students may not obtain CPT or OPT for their fall practicum as the practicum is not a paid position.

All CPT and OPT documents require processing by the INI and must include the appropriate signatures. Students cannot obtain signatures from their academic advisor or any other INI staff unless directed to do so.

For general rules governing CPT/OPT: <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/employment.html>.

## 6. Program Transfer

Program transfers are **strongly discouraged and rarely approved** by the INI.

In addition to the process detailed in “Section III. Enrollment & Registration: D. Program Transfers,” international students approved for program transfer must complete a program transfer form to be submitted to OIE. This will involve an update to their I-20 which will require submission of new financial documents to demonstrate sufficient funds to cover the program they will be entering.

## 7. Other Assistance

OIE offers services for immigration/visa/I-20 processing, workshops on cultural adjustment, reentry issues, career planning, tax filing, and other topics. The OIE website is available at the following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/oie/index.html>.

The International Cultural Center (ICC) offers language support and cross-cultural training to help all students who are non-native English speakers succeed in their academic programs. The ICC also helps teaching assistants who are non-native English speakers develop the fluency and cultural understanding to teach successfully at Carnegie Mellon. The ICC website is available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/icc/>.

Various student-run organizations exist at Carnegie Mellon to provide support for students from various cultures, religions and backgrounds. A list of organizations is available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/international-students/orgs.html>.

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## VI. CAREER SERVICES

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INI Career Services provides students with guidance during their internship and job searches. The services available to students include: resume reviews, career exploration consultation, internship and job search strategies, workshops/events and employer relations. Students should check the office hours and schedule time with the INI’s career consultant accordingly.

Students also have the resources of the university’s central Career and Professional Development Center (CPDC) with regards to workshops and job/internship interviewing. The CPDC organizes career development workshops, events and company information sessions and is heavily involved in organizing campus-wide job fairs and bringing employers to campus. The CPDC’s website is available at the following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/career/>

Handshake is Carnegie Mellon’s online recruiting system. Employers can request accounts to post jobs, request interviews and information sessions, 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. Handshake is accessed through the CPDC website.

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### A. JOB SEARCH GUIDELINES

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The INI strives to play a supportive role in the career pursuits of students but maintains academics as a priority. It is not acceptable for students to skip classes or assignments in order to attend job interviews. Students should conduct job searches in a manner that does not impede their academic progress.

It is also important for students to understand how to conduct a job search. Students are expected to exhibit certain ethical behavior, such as arriving on time for interviews, being truthful about their qualifications, and honoring their agreements with recruiters when applying for jobs. Students may not continue searching, applying and interviewing for a position after they have accepted an offer.

The CPDC reserves the right to limit access to Handshake for any users that do not follow job search guidelines. The Handshake policies and guidelines on conducting a job search are available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/career/>.

Students who do not follow such guidelines may forfeit their on-campus interviewing and/or resume submission privileges.

Once a student officially accepts an internship offer, it is considered final and they cannot continue searching, applying and interviewing for a different internship. If a student reneges an offer they have officially accepted, they will lose access to Handshake for one semester, at minimum. The student will also not be allowed to participate in the TOC in the fall semester.

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

## **VII. METACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES & RECOGNITION**

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### **A. INI GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**

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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. For more information about each organization and the officer positions, please visit: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/organizations.html>.

#### **1. Leadership Positions**

Eligible INI students may be nominated and elected to serve as student officers for GOINI and WINI. Incoming GOINI and WINI officers are elected in the second semester of their first year, and may serve up to three consecutive semesters.

#### **2. Student Officer Eligibility**

In order to be eligible to serve as a GOINI and/or WINI student officer, students 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.

## B. CONFERENCE FUNDING

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### 1. INI Conference Funding

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, students 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.

#### 1. Graduate Student Assembly/Provost Conference Funding Grants

INI students may apply for conference funds from the Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) and the Provost's Office. Awards are managed by the Graduate Education Office. For more information, please visit: <https://www.cmu.edu/graduate/professional-development/conference-funding/index.html>.

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.

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

## C. INI GRADUATION AWARDS

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Graduating INI students may be nominated by staff and faculty to receive an award upon graduation. Nominations are reviewed by an award committee and awards are presented at the INI Diploma Ceremony.

In order to be eligible to receive an INI Graduation Award, students 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.

## VIII. TUITION & FEES

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The current INI tuition rate and other university fees are on the INI website at the following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/admissions/financial/tuition.html>.

### A. TUITION BILLING & PAYMENTS

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The tuition rate for students entering INI programs is set in the spring for the class entering in the following fall.

Students will be charged tuition for each semester in which they are enrolled.-Summer courses, if taken, are charged additional tuition at the per unit rate. Please refer to the INI's website for detailed information regarding tuition and fees at:

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

If a student must complete a course after the standard 20-month program, or 16-months in the case of integrated master's students, additional tuition will be assessed at a per-unit rate. Students who do not complete their program in its standard length will be charged the per-unit tuition rate of the incoming class for the academic year in which additional semesters occur.

The HUB handles the tuition billing and payment process for all INI students. For the university's billing and payment policy, please refer to the Billing and Payments section on The HUB website: <http://www.cmu.edu/sfs/billing/index.html>.

Internships and research work do not accrue additional charges, even though students are registered for units.

## **B. TUITION ASSESSMENT FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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If a student goes on a leave of absence from the university and does not finish their program within its standard duration from the date in which they initially enrolled, the student will be subject to the current per-unit tuition rate at the time of return. The standard duration is 20 months for all programs, with the exception of the integrated master's program (16 months). Any academic awards previously received are considered null and void.

## **C. UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL AID**

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Graduate students should refer to the graduate student financial aid information found on The HUB website, at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/finaid/>. Students will find the Graduate Financial Aid Guide, information about funding options and how to apply for financial aid as well other helpful links.

Graduate students who find themselves in need of immediate funds for emergency situations should contact the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs to inquire about an Emergency Student Loan, at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/dean/loans/>.

## **D. STUDENT FINANCIAL OBLIGATION & PAST DUE ACCOUNTS**

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INI students are subject to, and must be aware of, the Carnegie Mellon policy regarding student financial obligation: <http://www.cmu.edu/sfs/billing/sfo.html>.

# **IX. UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

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It is the responsibility of each member of the Carnegie Mellon community to be familiar with university policies and guidelines. In addition to this handbook, the following resources are available to assist 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 Website: [www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity](http://www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity)
- University Policies Website: [www.cmu.edu/policies/](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/)
- Graduate Education Website: <http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/policies/index.html>

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

## A. CARNEGIE MELLON CODE

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Students at Carnegie Mellon, 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 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 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 also be found on-line at:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/code/index.html>.

## B. LEAVE OF ABSENCE/WITHDRAWAL

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“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.

Further information about Carnegie Mellon’s policy on student leave is available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/StLeave.html>.

Students who would like to withdraw or take a leave of absence must complete the appropriate form, available on The HUB website, available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/forms.html>. If a student goes on leave of absence after accepting an internship offer, the student must notify the company of their current academic status. The student must provide documentation that the company has been properly notified to the INI AAO and Career Services staff prior to going on leave of absence.

### 1. 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.

Additional information, as well as the tuition adjustment schedules, is available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/sfs/tuition/adjustment/index.html>.

### 2. Returning to Carnegie Mellon

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.

Further information about Carnegie Mellon’s policy on student return is available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/StReturns.html>.

### 3. 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’s policy on student suspension/required withdrawal policy. The complete policy is available at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Suspension.html>.

## C. WITHDRAWAL OF A DEGREE

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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. The complete reference to this university policy is available at:

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

#### **D. UNIVERSITY GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES & CONTACTS**

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Graduate students will find the Summary of Graduate Student Appeal and Grievance Procedures on the Graduate Education Resource webpage, which is available at:

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

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.

A graduate student who seeks further review of the matter is to follow the formal procedures outlined at the link provided above when an informal resolution cannot be reached. 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. Students may confer with the graduate student ombudsman, Suzie Laurich-McIntyre, [slaurichmcintyre@cmu.edu](mailto:slaurichmcintyre@cmu.edu), on issues of process or other concerns as they navigate conflicts.

#### **E. STUDENT PRIVACY RIGHTS**

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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

The complete policy is available at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/StPrivacy.html>.

#### **F. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

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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, students should refer to Carnegie Mellon's policy, which is available at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/IntellProp.html>.

## G. PETS

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Dogs, cats, and other pets are not permitted in any university buildings, including residence halls and fraternities and sororities, with the only exception being guide dogs. Specifically, pets are prohibited from being in offices, classrooms, hallways, and other areas at all times.

Dogs are permitted on campus grounds when leashed and properly attended. Dogs may not be left tied to trees or other objects on campus.

Carnegie Mellon's policy on pets is available at <https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword/community-policies/pets.html>.

## H. ALCOHOL & DRUGS

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Unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol by students or employees on Carnegie Mellon 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's policy on alcohol and drugs. The complete policy is available at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/DrugAlcohol.html>.

## I. ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

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

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)

## J. SAFEGUARDING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY – POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL HARRASSMENT & SEXUAL ASSAULT

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Sexual harassment and sexual assault are prohibited by CMU, as is retaliation for having brought forward a concern or allegation in good faith. The policy can be viewed in its entirety at: [http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/SA\\_SH.htm](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/SA_SH.htm).

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

- Office of Title IX Initiatives, <http://www.cmu.edu/title-ix/>, 412-268-7125, [tix@cmu.edu](mailto:tix@cmu.edu)
- University Police, 412-268-2323
- University Health Services, 412-268-2157
- Counseling & Psychological Services, 412-268-2922

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

## K. MATERNITY ACCOMODATION PROTOCOL

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<https://www.cmu.edu/graduate/programs-services/maternity-accommodation-protocol.html>

Students whose anticipated delivery date is during the course of the semester may consider taking time away from their coursework and/or research responsibilities. All female students who give birth to a child while engaged in coursework or research are eligible to take either a short-term absence or formal leave of absence. Students in course work should consider either working with their course instructor to receive incomplete grades or elect to drop to part-time status or to take a 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.

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 her academic contact(s) (advisor, associate dean, etc.) will be reviewed during this meeting.

## X. INI COMPUTING SERVICES

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The INI requires that all students abide by Carnegie Mellon's policy on computing, which is available at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Computing.htm>.

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

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, please consult CMU Computing Services, at:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/computing>.

Students may receive help with any of the above topics by sending an email to [advisor@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:advisor@andrew.cmu.edu) or by calling the Computing Services helpdesk at (412) 268-4357.

## A. LAPTOPS

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Students 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's bookstore (located in the basement of the Cohon University Center) and online at the following link:  
<https://bookstore.web.cmu.edu/computerstore>.

In order to meet minimum technical requirements, student-owned computers should have at least the following specifications:

- 64-bit capable x86\_64 (Intel or AMD) CPU
- 8 GB RAM (16 GB recommended)
- 500 GB SDD (725 GB recommended)

The INI strongly recommends Apple, Dell or Lenovo machines with on-site extended warranty in order to prevent extended down time and other risks associated with hardware failure and the requirements of less mainstream brands to ship the laptop to and from a manufacturer's repair facilities, often located outside the U.S.

## B. PRINTING

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Black-and-white laser printers are provided for student use. Within the INI building, there are two printing stations located on the Winthrop level and one printing station located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The INI uses the campus-wide Andrew print system. Common instructions, such as how to configure a laptop to print to Andrew, information on printing quotas, and how to find additional campus-wide printing stations, are available at:  
<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/services/endpoint/printing/>.

Staff printers are not available for student use.

## C. SOFTWARE

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A large selection of software titles is offered campus-wide through the following link:  
<http://www.cmu.edu/computing/software/>.

## D. OTHER COMPUTING RESOURCES

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Students may be required to access specific resources not described above as part of their course work. The instructor, as necessary, will provide access to and support for any such resources.

## XI. INI BUILDING POLICIES

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Our building policies are located in a separate document. Students may access the policies at the following link: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/handbook.html>.

Please contact [ini-help@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:ini-help@andrew.cmu.edu) with any questions.

## XII. POST-MATRICULATION GUIDELINES

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### A. RETURN OF UNIVERSITY PROPERTY

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

### B. EXIT INTERVIEWS

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

## XIII. GRANDFATHER CLAUSE

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The INI will make a serious effort to see that all students are informed of any changes to the policies, procedures or operations. In general, when such revisions and additions alter degree requirements, said changes will be instituted for the next entering class unless otherwise stated.

## XIV. STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

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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 Vice President for Campus Affairs, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-2056.

General information about Carnegie Mellon University can be obtained by calling 412-268-2000.

The Statement of Assurance is available online at:

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

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## XV. ACRONYMS

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CPDC	Career and Professional Development Center
CIT	Carnegie Institute of Technology (former name of the College of Engineering)
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
INI AAO	INI's Academic Affairs Office
MSIN	Master of Science in Information Networking
MSIS	Master of Science in Information Security
MSIT	Master of Science in Information Technology
MSIT-IS	MSIT-Information Security
MSIT-MOB	MSIT-Mobility
SCS	School of Computer Science
SIO	Student Information Online
SV	Silicon Valley

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## XVI. VERSION TABLE

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A notice of any policy changes that occur over the course of the current academic year will be recorded here along with the date and a short description of the change.

DATE	VERSION	CHANGE DESCRIPTION
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6.18.19	1.1	Updated links, etc. for 2019-2020 AY
7.15.19	1.2	Updated Appendix A per the Graduate Education Office
9.19.19	1.3	Made changes for AY19-20
1.10.20	1.4	Added Student Communications section (pg. 1-2), Added Scholarships and Financial Awards section (pg. 4), Updated eligibility requirements for TA positions (pg. 15), Updated Academic Integrity section per University policy (pg. 18-19), Added Metacurricular Opportunities and Recognition section (pg. 31-32)
3.30.20	1.5	Updated Academic Probation section (pg. 17)

## XVII. APPENDIX A

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### 1. Key Offices for Graduate Student Support

#### Graduate Education Office

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

The Graduate Education Office provides central support for all Master’s and Doctoral students with a focus on their academic experience at Carnegie Mellon. Our goals are to support, advise and guide individual graduate students as they work to complete their degrees and to provide resources which will enhance their professional development experience.

Resources offered through the Graduate Education Office include- but are not limited to:

- 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 all issues related to the graduate student experience

The Graduate Education Office is directed by Suzie Laurich-McIntyre, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education, who offers personalized consultations with graduate students to support their academic success, connects them with relevant resources, and clarifies university level policies.

The Graduate Education Office also works with the colleges and departments by informing and assisting in forming 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 our graduate students' advancement.

**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 following offices and departments (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

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 Emergency Student Loan (ESLs) process. Emergency Student Loans are made available through generous gifts of alumni and friends of the university. The Emergency Student Loan is an interest-free, emergency-based loan repayable to the university within 30 days. Loans are available to enrolled students for academic supplies, medication, food or other expenses not able to be met due to unforeseeable circumstances.

The Office of Community Standards and Integrity provides consultation, support, resources and follow-up on questions and issues related to Academic Integrity: <https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/ocsi/students/index.html>

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.

**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/education-office/disability-resources/>

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 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).

#### **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 at [www.cmu.edu/teaching/graduatestudentsupport/index.html](http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/graduatestudentsupport/index.html).

#### **Graduate Student Assembly**

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



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.

<https://www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/About-the-GSA/Strategic-Plan.html>.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Graduate Education Office. 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.

### **Intercultural Communication Center (ICC)**

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

The Intercultural Communication Center (ICC) is a support service for nonnative English speakers, both newly arrived international students as well as students who attended high school and/or undergraduate programs in the US. The ICC offers seminars, workshops, and 1-1 consultations that develop the language and cross-cultural skills needed to succeed in academic programs at Carnegie Mellon University. The ICC provides International Teaching Assistant (ITA) testing, a required test indicating a nonnative speaking TA has the language proficiency required to work with students in classes, labs or individual meetings. The ICC also supports International Teaching Assistants in developing fluency and cultural understanding to teach successfully at Carnegie Mellon University.

### **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. OIE provides many services including: advising on personal, immigration, academic, social and acculturation issues; presenting programs of interest such as international career workshops, tax workshops, and cross-cultural and immigration workshops; maintaining a resource library that includes information on cultural adjustment, 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 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, non-educational resources and international military service information 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-vaedbenefts@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:uro-vaedbenefts@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)(user name: 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**

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.

Additional details regarding the Policy Against Retaliation are available at <https://www.cmu.edu/policies/administrative-and-governance/whistleblower.html>

## 2. Key Offices for Academic & Research Support

### Academic Coaching/Consulting - The Office of Academic Development

<https://www.cmu.edu/acadev/coaching/index-grad.html>

The Academic Coaching Program is a student assistance program that supports graduate students in the development and/or improvement of skills, strategies, and processes that are necessary for a productive and successful experience at CMU and beyond. Support for graduate students comes in two forms: Individualized Sessions and Group Workshops. Individualized Sessions are the primary focus and can be best understood as working with a personal consultant. Academic Coaches/Consultants meet with students regularly, in a one-on-one capacity, in order to assess a student's needs and implement strategies to satisfy those needs, while providing a variety of support throughout the process. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to:

- Self-Management
  - Developing and/or adjusting your organizational system
  - Managing time and combating stress and procrastination
  - Prioritization and decision making
  - Advancing mindset, self-efficacy, and belongingness
  - Balancing coursework, research, and professional development opportunities
- Study Skills
  - Identifying and modifying your learning process
  - Metacognition
  - Test-taking and note-taking strategies
  - Content comprehension and retention

### 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 (<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/safe/>) section and the University Computing Policy (<https://www.cmu.edu/policies/information-technology/computing.html>)

Visit the Computing Services website (<https://www.cmu.edu/computing/>) 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).

## **Global Communication Center**

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

The Global Communication Center offers free one-on-one tutoring and workshops for native and non-native English speakers from any academic discipline. Our tutors are trained to provide research-backed communication strategies on written, oral, and visual communication projects, in the sciences and the humanities. We can help you improve the effectiveness of your communication in any academic project, including the following:

- Technical reports
- Dissertations
- Research posters
- Oral presentations
- Journal articles
- Grant proposals
- Class essays

You can visit us at any stage in the project—whether you are just getting started and need to talk through ideas or are putting the finishing touches on a final draft. We also offer workshops on topics including crafting professional emails, team communication, PowerPoint slide design, data visualization, and job application materials. For more information, to view our resources, or to schedule an appointment, visit our website.

## **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 is found by visiting 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 consults on, advises about and handles allegations of research misconduct.

### **3. Key Offices for Health, Wellness & Safety**

#### **Counseling & Psychological Services**

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

Counseling & Psychological Services (CaPS) affords the opportunity for students to talk privately about issues that are significant for them in a safe, confidential setting. Students sometimes feel uncertain about why they are feeling upset and perhaps confused about how to deal with those feelings. An initial consultation with a CaPS therapist will clarify options and provide a recommendation to the appropriate mental health resource at Carnegie Mellon or the larger Pittsburgh community. CaPS also provides workshops and group sessions specifically for graduate students on campus. CaPS services are provided at no cost. Appointments can be made in person or by telephone, 412-268-2922.

#### **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 dietician 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 the university, 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 [bit.ly/BeWellAtCMU](http://bit.ly/BeWellAtCMU) 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/>

**412-268-2323 (emergency only), 412-268-6232 (non-emergency)**

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 registration. Visit the department's website for additional information about the staff, emergency phone locations, crime prevention, lost and found, finger print 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 at <https://www.cmu.edu/police/annualreports/>.

### **Shuttle and Escort Services**

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.

### **The WORD**

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

The WORD is Carnegie Mellon University's student on-line handbook and is considered a supplement to the department (and sometimes college) handbook. The WORD contains campus resources and opportunities, academic policy information and resources, community standards information and resources. 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. Information about the following is included in The WORD (not an exhaustive list) and graduate students are encouraged to bookmark this site and refer to it often.

University policies can also be found in full text at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/>

## XVIII. APPENDIX B: INDEPENDENT STUDY

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The purpose of the INI Independent Study course is to allow students to expand and enhance their educational experience and professional preparation beyond the scope of existing courses, projects, and experiences at Carnegie Mellon. If a student identifies a topic or project of interest that relevant to their degree program but is not covered in depth by any other course, project, practicum, internship, or curricular program component, the student may negotiate an Independent Study with a suitable Carnegie Mellon faculty member. Students are required to submit a proposal detailing their Independent Study plan. In addition to a summary of the technical goals and expected outcomes of the Independent Study, students must provide compelling as to (1) why an Independent Study on this topic or project is relevant to their degree program and should be allowed, (2) why the chosen faculty member is an appropriate Independent Study advisor, and (3) the learning objectives and expected deliverables of the Independent Study.

An independent study can be worth a maximum of 12 units and a minimum of 6 units. It cannot be taken as pass/no pass/audit. A student can take a maximum of 18 total units of Independent Study credit during their degree program. An independent study can count as a general restricted elective but cannot count toward the specific 12-unit requirement within restricted electives that must be from INI, ECE, CSD, or the four EPP courses. In addition, bicoastal MSIT 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. Students who are on probation will not be approved for an independent study.

An independent study must be approved by the course 'Add' deadline of the semester or mini term. 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.

When the student identifies a faculty member to advise their independent study, the student must submit a petition and a comprehensive project proposal, signed by their independent study advisor, to the INI AAO. Information regarding petitions can be found on our website: <https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/>.

The project proposal must include the following information:

- **Overview and justification:** The student must describe the topic to be studied and the expected outcomes of the Independent Study. In addition, the student 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. The student must also justify the choice of Carnegie Mellon faculty to serve as the advisor/mentor for the Independent Study. Sufficient detail must be provided in all aspects of this section to convince INI that this Independent Study proposal should be approved.

- **Milestones and deliverables:** The student must provide a preliminary list of the tasks or milestones that they expect to accomplish through this Independent Study. In addition, the student must briefly describe their deliverables and justify their value toward the specified number of credit units and duration of the Independent Study (e.g., mini or full semester). In particular, the student should specify what presentations, papers, or other artifacts will be delivered to the faculty advisor.
- **Evaluation of the student's work:** The student must provide a detailed plan for how the faculty advisor will monitor and evaluate the student's work. This plan must address
  - How the faculty advisor and student will track progress toward deliverables,
  - How the work done will match the number of credit units being earned; and
  - How the student's grade will be determined.
- **Expected timetable:** The student should indicate milestones that will be met through the process either by week or dates. The student 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 the student's work and provide relevant feedback and evaluation to the student and the department; and
  - To other content provided in the independent study proposal.

## XIX. APPENDIX C: THESIS/TECHNICAL REPORT

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### A. MSIN/MSIS STUDENTS

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A student who selects this option must complete a traditional INI master's project with a Carnegie Mellon faculty advisor and reader. The student may either work with faculty on the faculty member's current research/projects or work on a project devised by the student with the support of their advisor and reader. Students should discuss with their 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 generally divided by completing 12 units in the second fall and 24 units in the second spring semester. The unit assignment should be directly addressed in the proposal.



If completing a thesis or development-based project, students must complete the research over two semesters, all 36 units cannot be taken in one semester. For students requesting to complete all 36 units in one semester, it must be the only course they are taking, and would be approved by petition.

For detailed information, please refer to the MSIN and MSIS Thesis and/or Technical Report Guidelines: [https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/graduate\\_project.html](https://www.cmu.edu/ini/student-services/enrollment/graduate_project.html).

### Thesis/Technical Report Timeline for MSIN & MSIS\* Students

Timeframe	Action
By the 'Semester Course Add Deadline' in the first spring semester	Acquire the project advisor's approval (signature); then submit the Signature Page and the Proposal for approval by the academic advisor to the INI AAO
3 weeks before the last day of class in defending semester	Submit Defense Scheduling Form and Video Consent Form to the INI AAO.
1 week before the last day of class in defending semester	Defend
10 days before the final grades deadline for graduating students	Acquire the project advisor's approval and then submit Thesis/Tech Report and Signature Page to the INI AAO for approval by the INI and/or college.

\*Kobe MSIT-IS must adhere to the graduate project timeline set forth by its host institution.

## XX. APPENDIX D: INTERNSHIPS

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An internship is considered work that is paid or unpaid and may be obtained at the following: an off-campus company anywhere in U.S., a company in another country, or on-campus (e.g. research assistant).

An internship is considered work that is paid or unpaid and may be obtained at the following: an off-campus company anywhere in U.S., a company in another country, or on a university campus (e.g. performing research). In order to satisfy the internship requirement, prior approval is required, especially if the company is outside the U.S. Students who begin an internship without prior INI approval will not be registered or receive course credit which will impact the ability to graduate. Off-campus unpaid and volunteer internships may violate Department of Labor rules and the Fair Labor Standards Act. Students must receive permission before accepting off-campus unpaid or volunteer internships. The internship should be 12 weeks in length (9 weeks at minimum in cases where there is difficulty in finding a position) to satisfy the internship requirement.

International students accepting off-campus internships in the U.S. must obtain work authorization and are eligible to apply for Curricular Practical Training (CPT), but may also choose to apply for Pre-Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT). For additional information about CPT and OPT, international students should refer to Section 5D, 'Considerations for

## International Students.'

The primary criterion of all internships is that the work to be done is relevant to the student's program of study. To that end, students are required to obtain a job offer letter from the company, faculty member or other representative offering the position. In order to receive credit for the internship, we must have a comprehensive letter on company letterhead on file, which includes all of the following information:

- Student name and current address (required)
- The company's name (required)
- Start date (no earlier than the first day of summer classes) (required)
- End date (no later than the last day of summer classes unless approved for a later date) (required)
- Number of hours of work per week (specific hours, e.g., 40/week or part-time, full-time) (required)
- Work location address (street address, city, state, zip code) (required)
- Internship job title (required)
- Brief description of a student's position/responsibilities (required)
- Name of student's supervisor (required)
- Supervisor's phone number and email (both are required)
- Secondary company contact: full name, phone number, and email (all three required)
- A signature on the letter, with the title of the person who signed it (required)

All students must have their supervisor complete an internship summary form one week before the internship end date.

All internships will be taken as a Pass/No Pass, 0-unit course. The grade will be assigned upon receipt and review of the internship summary form completed by the internship supervisor.