

CSCI 6200: Computer Science PhD Career Development¹

Fall 2024

Instructor

- Name: Shivakant Mishra
- Office: ECCR 1B22
- Office Hours: W: 11 AM – 12 Noon; F: 3:30 – 4:30 PM
- Email: *mishras@colorado.edu*

Short Description

Learn how to make the most of your CS PhD by understanding and preparing for a career as a computer science researcher in academia, industry, and government. This is a professional development course aimed at helping students make the most of their CS PhD by exploring different career opportunities, searching for jobs, preparing application materials, practicing interviews, negotiating salaries, and so on. *Students need to take this class once they complete preliminary exam and before their proposal defense.* We will cover topics pertaining to

- **completing your dissertation**
proposal, committee, defense, timeline
- **finding a job**
identifying career opportunities for a CS PhD in academia, industry, and government
doing the research to find the right opportunity
proactively preparing to be competitive in your selected job market
building your work-related social network
- **preparing application materials**
CV, research statements, etc.
- **preparing for the interview**
preparing a job talk, teaching talk, chalkboard [informal talk], technical interview
- **analyzing a job offer**
negotiating salaries, selecting the right fit
- **preparing for success**
work-life balance, quality of life, understanding and navigating work politics
- **other general topics**
e.g., how to be an effective mentor and mentee; selecting role models; enhancing diversity in the workplace

¹ Subject to change at instructor's discretion. The most updated copy will always be posted on Canvas.

Intended Outcome

Upon successful completion of this course you will:

- Learn how to successfully complete your dissertation
- Understand the various career opportunities available to a CS PhD
- Learn how to be competitive for your selected career
- Learn how to make effective career-related decisions
- Learn how to be successful in your chosen career
- Improve your written and spoken ability to effectively communicate your research
- Develop your professional skills including writing/reviewing grants, preparing job application materials, giving a job talk, preparing for an interview, negotiating salaries, navigating institutional cultures, and so on

Instruction Mode

This class will be taught in person with all students required to attend each scheduled class.

Prerequisite

CSCI 6000 (minimum grade B) and successful completion of preliminary (i.e., area) exam.

Course Format

We will follow a written product, oral presentation, peer-mentoring, and studio-critique format. Specifically, each student will provide a written research product (e.g., CV, research statement), which will be distributed to the entire class. The other students will read over the description and provide written feedback. Next, the student will incorporate these suggestions, present the work to the class, and engage in a constructive discussion to improve the research product. There will be professional development sessions interspersed throughout the course where we will engage in small-group and whole-class discussions around a focal topic (e.g., the tenure process, how to negotiate a job offer) and/or guest speaker.

Late Submissions

Because of the above studio format where each submission is discussed in the subsequent class, late submissions cannot be accepted except for extraneous circumstances (e.g., sickness) out of the student's control.

Attendance

This is a highly discursive, and interactive course. As such, you are expected to attend class regularly, do the required readings/critiques, actively participate in the discussions, and make significant progress on your own research milestones.

Grades

Grades will be based on the level of engagement with the activities outline above and the quality of the research project:

- A:
 - Completes all important components and communicates ideas clearly.
 - Demonstrates in-depth understanding and/or processes.
 - Where appropriate, chooses more efficient and sophisticated processes.
 - Where appropriate, offers insightful interpretations or extensions (generalizations, applications, analogies).
- B to A-:
 - Completes most important components and communicates clearly.
 - Demonstrates understanding of major concepts even though he/she overlooks or misunderstands some less important ideas or details.
- C to B-:
 - Completes some important components and communicates clearly.
 - Demonstrates that there are gaps in his/her conceptual understanding.
- D to C-:
 - Addresses only a small portion of the required components.
 - Shows minimal understanding.
- F
 - Responses are totally incorrect or irrelevant
 - No response

Policies (See <https://colorado.edu/academicaffairs/policies-customs-guidelines/required-syllabus-statements>)

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

For more information, see the [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please inform me as soon as you can. You do not need to state the nature of your illness when alerting me and do not need to provide "doctor's notes" for classes missed due to illness. Please note that campus health services no longer provide "doctor's notes" or appointment verifications.

Preferred Student Names and Pronouns

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the [Honor Code](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code.

All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about university policies, reporting options, and support resources including confidential services can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

Religious Accommodations

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, please notify the instructional faculty of any anticipated conflicts due to religious obligations as early in the semester as possible (at least two weeks before) so that there is adequate time to make alternate arrangements.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Mental Health and Wellness

The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7.

Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.