

The possibility of a Dual PhD degree with CSE as the second degree

It is possible for a Linguistics PhD student to do a Dual PhD with CSE as the second degree. This is a great opportunity for those interested in research that involves a fair bit of computational or acquisition modelling work.

Why bother?

- 1) For the right student, a dual PhD would greatly enhance the kind of research they can do. In fact, I can imagine that students can bring back and teach the faculty/other students important developments. The job prospects of a graduate student both in academia and in the corporate sector are likely enhanced. This is a win-win for the right student.

Important note: A linguistics student will still have to complete all the requirements for a PhD in Linguistics. The basic requirements listed below are in addition to the Linguistics requirements.

Here are the basic requirements/facts:

- 1) A PhD student will need to get 15 credits of CSE courses that include 4 different foundational areas.
- 2) 2 of the student's committee members must be from CSE.
- 3) One CSE faculty must be a co-chair.
- 4) The dual enrollment usually needs to happen in the 3rd semester, but earlier/later is possible.
- 5) [Here is the CSE Graduate Handbook](#). The relevant information is in Section 2.7 (or you can search for "Dual Major")

Some useful information

- 1) The best course to start with is CSE 840 - the mathematical foundations of ML and AI.
 - a) It has a test out, syllabus and slides. If they get 50% they can take 840 with other CSE courses; otherwise, it is best to take it first.
- 2) The following CSE faculty usually do dual PhDs with other departments/programme, so it is worth looking at their profiles/webpages. (but, other professors might be interested too.)
 - a) [Parisa Kordjamshidi](#)
 - b) [Charles Ofria](#)
 - c) [Arun Ross](#)
 - d) [Jiliang Tang](#)

If a student is interested

- 1) They should talk to their advisor first.
- 2) Reach out to the LIN DGS and perhaps then the CSE DGS ([Sandeep Kulkarni](#) as of 2025 January) to talk more about the possibility and the kind of research that might be acceptable.

- 3) It would also help to look at previous dual PhD dissertations to see the kind of computational work CSE would accept. The CSE DGS should be helpful in this regard.