PAPER REQUIREMENT

GOAL

The paper requirement serves two purposes:

• the student demonstrates their research potential by articulating their knowledge of research work in their area of interest and
• it is a measurable milestone for progress towards Ph.D. completion.

Thus, the paper requirement is both a research requirement as well as a writing requirement.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The PhD student submits the following to the chair of the PhD Committee:

• A paper that they have authored.
• If the paper has been accepted for publication, then the name and acceptance rate of the relevant conference or journal, and any additional information about the quality of the venues.
• A statement from their adviser clearly indicating the student’s contributions to the paper and how these contributions provide evidence of research potential.

EVALUATION PROCESS

The PhD Committee will approve the request if the following conditions are met.

1. The student is a “leading student author” of the paper, and a major contributor to both the research and the writing of the paper.
2. If the paper has been accepted for publication, then the venue must be well-regarded by colleagues working in the relevant research area. While acceptance rate is not the main indicator of the quality of a conference, we note that acceptance rates in good conferences in most areas of CS are below 50% (often well below 40%).
3. If the paper has not yet been accepted for publication or there are some concerns about the quality of the venue, then the PhD Committee may schedule a presentation by the student, which is attended by at least two PhD Committee member, the student’s adviser, and possibly other faculty members and students. In this case, the attending PhD committee members must report that the presented work demonstrates the research potential of the student.

It is expected that the paper requirement be completed no later than the Spring Academic Review of their third year of studies.

Questions:

1. Can a student submit a research paper that they prepared for a class?
   Yes. Note that condition (3) above always applies.

2. What happens if the student does not complete the paper requirement by the Spring academic review of their third year?
Unless the faculty adviser and/or other faculty members in the related area make a strong case for the student at the academic review, the student risks a rating of marginal or unsatisfactory at the review. Further delay in completing the paper requirement could adversely impact the academic standing of the student.

3. **These questions concern the presentation that the student may have to give if the paper has not yet been accepted at a well-regarded conference. Can this presentation be part of an internal seminar? Can the student give a presentation they have already given?**

Yes to both questions.