

# Incoming Computer Science Graduate Students Orientation

Attendance to the graduate student orientation is mandatory for all incoming graduate students.

Date: Friday, August 22nd, 12 noon - 5 pm

Place: Farris Engineering Center 141

(Go to [http://www.cs.unm.edu/visitors/maps\\_and\\_directions/](http://www.cs.unm.edu/visitors/maps_and_directions/) for directions)

Agenda:

12:00-1:00 Lunch and General Information Session

- Welcome and Introductions (George Luger, Department Assistant Chair)
- Course Requirements and how to pass the comprehensive exams
- Logistics for 1st year students

1:00-2:45 Brief Presentations from Faculty about their research

2:45-3:30 Coffee Break, Informal Visits with Faculty and Students

3:30-5:00 Grad Student Panel

- Meet and get advice from current UNM CS grad students
- Possible discussion topics include:
  - Research  
How to do research, find and adviser, and read technical papers  
Good books on grad school ("Getting what you came for" by Robert Peters, "How to Write Your Dissertation in 15 Minutes a Day" by Joan Bolker)
  - Program Logistics
  - Plan for PhD: how long should it take to get to comps, find a research topic, or write a dissertation?
  - What sort of classes should I take starting out? breadth versus depth.
  - Getting a Master's degree along the way: Pros and Cons, how to do this
- UNM and Local Area Info
- Albuquerque info (see also [http://www.cs.unm.edu/visitors/life\\_in\\_albuquerque\\_and\\_new\\_mexico/](http://www.cs.unm.edu/visitors/life_in_albuquerque_and_new_mexico/))
- Getting to UNM without a parking ticket (walking, biking and busing alternatives)
- the CS network, email lists and general netiquette
- Outside resources (CSEL, UNM Library, etc.)
- Fellowship Information (see also [www.cs.unm.edu/~saia/fellowships.html](http://www.cs.unm.edu/~saia/fellowships.html))
- General Question and Answer