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UNCG College of Arts & Sciences to launch new computer science PhD program

Greensboro, N.C. (May 28, 2021) – UNC

<u>Greensboro</u> (UNCG) today announced that the <u>College of Arts & Sciences</u> has received approval from the UNC System to launch a new PhD program in computer science.

Starting in fall of 2022, the computer science PhD program fills a statewide need for this rapidly growing area of scholarship and employment. Last year, nearly 1,000 students applied for admission across the five related doctoral programs in North Carolina, but only 261 were admitted, and labor market data project a 20.6 percent increase in demand for computer scientist doctorates in North Carolina between 2019 and 2029, with median earnings of \$88,200 per year.



A UNCG computer science student takes notes during class. Photography credit: Martin W. Kane, University Communications

"The PhD program in computer science supports UNCG's role as a high-research university with a strong arts and sciences background," said UNCG Interim Provost Terri Shelton. "We can further leverage our nationally recognized Computer Science Department and existing depth of expertise to address the growing demand among students and employers for these skills. We are also in a unique position to offer an in-person degree at an affordable cost."

Currently the UNCG Department of Computer Science serves more than 500 undergraduate students and 40 master's degree students. The PhD program, which will take approximately four years for students to complete, plans to admit six doctoral students when it starts next fall. Research specialties include algorithms, artificial intelligence, data science and machine learning, database systems, extended reality, image processing, networking, and security. "I am delighted that the PhD program in computer science was approved," said Dr. John Z. Kiss, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "This program will enhance an already strong department and raise the research profile as well as the scholarly activity in the College of Arts & Sciences. In the long term, adding a doctoral program will allow us to continue to recruit and retain high quality faculty, which in turn benefits both graduate and undergraduate students."

The new addition brings UNCG's total doctoral program offerings to 30.

The application for the computer science PhD program is coming soon. For more information about the program, contact department head, Dr. Jing Deng, at <u>jing.deng@uncg.edu</u>

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About UNC Greensboro

<u>UNC Greensboro</u>, located in the <u>Piedmont Triad region</u> of North Carolina, is 1 of only 40 doctoral institutions recognized by the Carnegie Foundation for both <u>high research activity</u> and <u>community</u> <u>engagement</u>. Founded in 1891 and one of the original three <u>UNC System</u> institutions, UNC Greensboro is <u>one of the most diverse universities</u> in the state with <u>20,000+ students</u>, and <u>3,000+ faculty and</u> <u>staff</u> members representing 90+ nationalities. With <u>17 Division I athletic teams</u>, 85 <u>undergraduate</u> <u>degrees</u> in over 125 <u>areas of study</u>, as well as 74 master's and 32 doctoral <u>programs</u>, UNC Greensboro is consistently recognized nationally among the top universities for <u>academic excellence and value</u>, with noted strengths in <u>health and wellness</u>, <u>visual and performing arts</u>, <u>nursing</u>, <u>education</u>, and more. For additional information, please visit <u>uncg.edu</u> and follow UNCG on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

About The College of Arts & Sciences

With 25 departments and programs, the <u>College of Arts & Sciences (CAS)</u> is the largest and most diverse of UNCG's six colleges and schools. CAS serves approximately 6,500 students each year in the arts, humanities, sciences, social sciences, and mathematics. Nationally ranked programs include the PhD in English (U.S. News & World Report), PhD in History (US News & World Report), Master's in Sociology (Intelligent), and the Online Philosophy undergraduate degree (Best Value Schools and Best Colleges). For additional information, please visit <u>aas.uncg.edu</u>, and follow the College of Arts & Sciences on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>.