

# Guidelines for Student Research Presentation

CSE 501, FALL 2014

Tuesdays 3:30-4:50pm, DAVIS 113A

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## Rationale

The main idea in having senior Ph.D. students talk about their research here at UBCSE in CSE 501 is to give another perspective about doing research with various groups to the incoming Ph.D. students. While there are faculty research presentations in CSE 501, these presentations do not talk about various "non-technical" issues in doing research. The hope is that these presentations will give the incoming students a better picture of what it is like to do research – "from the trenches" as it were.

## Format

To maintain some sort of consistency across different presentations, I will run the **40-minute** discussion in the following format:

1. First **20 minutes** will be a presentation by you. You can use slides if you want or you can just speak (using the board) if you so prefer. I would ask that you address the following in your presentation:
  - State your general area of research
  - Give an overview of the research projects that your group works on
  - Give an overview of your own research
  - Tell us what are the aspects of research in your area/group that you really like (what gets you excited etc.)
  - Tell us what aspects of research in your area/group makes it challenging/hard.
  - What advice do you wish someone had given you when you started out as a Ph.D. student (including things that you should do and should not do)?

I would ask that you keep the technical aspects of your presentation to about *10 minutes*. Also if your group wants to advertise openings for new students, feel free to do so.

Finally, if there is something that you would like to add that you think will be useful for the students, please feel free to do so. It is important to be honest: the goal with these discussions is to present the incoming Ph.D. students with an idea of what doing research in various groups is like. Hence, talking about the joys as well as pitfalls of research in your area will be useful.<sup>1</sup>

2. The **last 20 minutes** will be for a Q&A session with the CSE 501 students. I will leave the room for the last 15 minutes in case there are questions that students feel more comfortable asking when I am not around.

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<sup>1</sup>During my Ph.D. I spoke at a similar venue as a senior theory student. It turned out every other speaker just spoke about the positives and left out any negatives while I spend a fair amount of time speaking about pitfalls of doing research in theory. It turned out that my presentation was the one that was most appreciated.