

Carnegie Mellon University

The Robotics Institute

2016-2017 Graduate Handbook

Master of Science in Robotics Systems Development (MRSD)

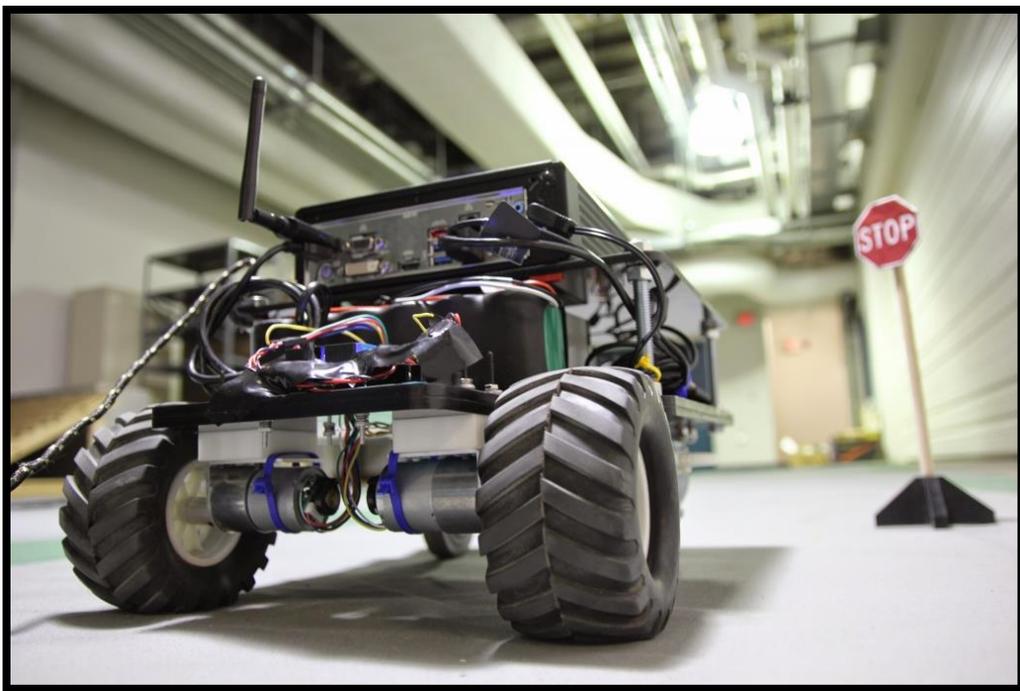


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Welcome!

A Note from the MRSD Program Director:

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and current students of the Robotics Institute (RI), I would like to welcome you to the family. The faculty and staff of RI will function not only as mentors and facilitators, but also coworkers in this process.

I now have one year under my belt as director of the program, and it's been a great year. We were recently recognized by [Grad School Hub](#) as the top robotics engineering program in the U.S., a tribute to the vision of my predecessor, Hagen Schempf, and the hard work and passion that a number of key faculty, staff, and students have poured into the program. You're joining a program that has both gained recognition for past successes and remained open to fruitful change.

The Master of Science (MS) degree in Robotic Systems Development (MRSD) is a unique advanced graduate degree program. It distinguishes itself from any other offered program by teaching the multidisciplinary know-how and skills in the fields of technology, systems engineering, and business needed to succeed in today's world. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each of you!

Warm Regards,



John M. Dolan, Ph.D.
Principal Systems Scientist
MRSD Program Director



Degrees Offered

The Robotics Institute offers diverse educational opportunities at all levels.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

- Doctor of Philosophy – Robotics

PhD Affiliated Programs

- MD/PhD – Robotics
- CNBC

Masters of Science (MS)

- Master of Science – Robotics
- Master of Science – Robotic Systems Development (MRSD)
- Master of Science – Robotics Technology (MS-RT)
- Master of Science – Computer Vision (MSCV)

Undergraduate Programs

- Additional Major – Robotics
- Minor – Robotics
- Minor – Intelligent Environments
- Minor – Animation & Special Effects
- Minor – Physical Computing

This handbook focuses on the policies for the Master of Science in Robotic Systems Development (MRSD) program. Information about RI's academic programs can be found [here](#).

Graduate Student Handbook

This handbook outlines the academic and departmental policies and procedures for students in the MRSD program. Students are encouraged to consult the handbook for guidance about degree attainment and other related topics. In addition to the handbook, MRSD students should familiarize themselves with the [Roboguide](#) (must be accessed within network).

University Policies & Expectations

It is the responsibility of each member of the Carnegie Mellon community to be familiar with university policies and guidelines. In addition to this departmental graduate student handbook, the following resources are available to assist you in understanding community expectations:

- [The Word/Student Handbook](#)
- [Academic Integrity Website](#)
- [University Policies Website](#)
- [Graduate Education Website](#)

Please see Appendix A for additional information about The Word and University resources.

Carnegie Mellon University Statement of Assurance

Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate in admission, employment, or administration of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap or disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, ancestry, belief, veteran status, or genetic information. Furthermore, Carnegie Mellon University does not discriminate and is required not to discriminate in violation of federal, state, or local laws or executive orders. Inquiries concerning the application of and compliance with this statement should be directed to the vice president for campus affairs, Carnegie Mellon University, 5000 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, telephone 412-268-2056. The Statement of Assurance can also be found [on-line](#).

The Carnegie Mellon Code

Students at Carnegie Mellon, because they are members of an academic community dedicated to the achievement of excellence, are expected to meet the highest standards of personal, ethical and moral conduct possible.

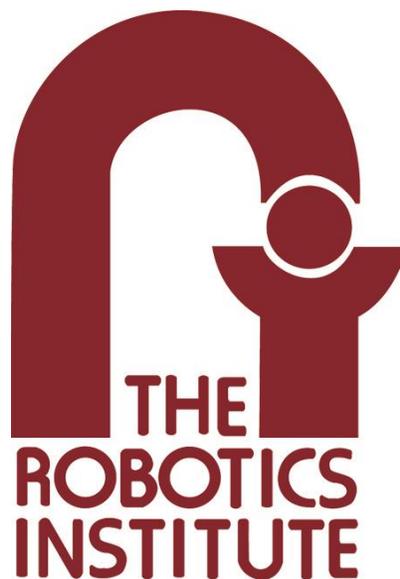
These standards require personal integrity, a commitment to honesty without compromise, as well as truth without equivocation and a willingness to place the good of the community above the good of the self. Obligations once undertaken must be met, commitments kept.

As members of the Carnegie Mellon community, individuals are expected to uphold the standards of the community in addition to holding others accountable for said standards. It is rare that the life of a student in an academic community can be so private that it will not affect the community as a whole or that the above standards do not apply.

The discovery, advancement and communication of knowledge are not possible without a commitment to these standards. Creativity cannot exist without acknowledgment of the creativity of others. New knowledge cannot be developed without credit for prior knowledge. Without the ability to trust that these principles will be observed, an academic community cannot exist.

The commitment of its faculty, staff and students to these standards contributes to the high respect in which the Carnegie Mellon degree is held. Students must not destroy that respect by their failure to meet these standards. Students who cannot meet them should voluntarily withdraw from the university.

The Carnegie Mellon Code can also be found [on-line](#).



1. Directory

A. Faculty Contacts

Dean, School of Computer Science
Associate Dean for MS Programs
Director, RI
Program Director, MRSD
Director of Education, RI
Senior Systems Scientist
Assistant Professor
Senior Systems Scientist
Associate Professor
Associate Professor
Principal Systems Scientist

[Andrew W. Moore](#)
[Garth Gibson](#)
[Martial Hebert](#)
[John M. Dolan](#)
[David Wettergreen](#)
[Dimi Apostolopoulos](#)
[Hartmut Geyer](#)
[George A. Kantor](#)
[Srinivasa Narasimhan](#)
[Siddhartha Srinivasa](#)
[David Bourne](#)

Dean of the SCS
Associate Dean level signatures
Director level signatures
Internship placement, project design, career advising
Form signatures
Systems Engineering
Manipulation, Mobility, and Control
Manipulation, Mobility, and Control
Computer Vision
Robot Autonomy
Introduction to Robotics Business

B. Administrative Contacts

Academic Program Manager
Global Program Manager
Administrative Coordinator
Senior Academic Coordinator
Senior Business Coordinator
Graduate Program Manager
Assoc Dir Finance & Administration

[Sarah Conte](#)
[Rachel Burcin](#)
[Christine Downey](#)
[Barbara Jean \(BJ\) Fecich](#)
[Dan Getkin](#)
[Suzanne Lyons Muth](#)
[Cheryl Wehrer](#)

MRSD, MSCV; Admissions, Advising
MS-RT; Immigration, Admissions, Advising
Purchasing Assistant
RI MS, IDEATE, Undergraduates; Admissions, Advising
Printing
RI PhD; Admissions, Advising
Administrative oversight

C. University Contacts

[Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education \(AVPGE\)](#)

[Suzie Laurich-McIntyre](#)

[Division of Student Affairs](#)

[Office of International Education \(OIE\)](#)

[Carly Devenburgh](#)

[Intercultural Communication Center \(ICC\)](#)

Graduate Student Academic Support/Advocacy, Diversity Recruitment and Programming, Graduate Policy, Graduate Student Service Awards, Professional Development Seminars, Conference Funding, Small Internal Research Awards Diversity Programming, Graduate Women's Gatherings, General Graduate Student Support/ Advocacy

General Graduate Student Support/Advocacy, Emergency Intervention

International Graduate Issues, Graduate Tax Workshop for International Students, Immigration Issues

International TA Screening and Support, Language Skills Assessment and Placement, Cross-Cultural Adjustment, Academic Fluency

[Graduate Student Assembly \(GSA\)](#)

[Enrollment Services - The HUB](#)

[Career and Professional Development Center](#)

[Health Services](#)

[Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)

[University Police](#)

Graduate Student Governance
Enrollment, Financial Assistance,
Academic Calendars, Transcripts

Career Resources

Health-Wellness Issues

Health-Wellness Issues

Transportation - Shuttle/ Escort

D. Abbreviations

CIT	College of Engineering
CMU	Carnegie Mellon University
GHC	Gates Hillman Center
GPA	Grade Point Average
GSA	Graduate Student Assembly
HC	Heinz College
ICC	Intercultural Communication Center
ITA	International Teaching Assistant
LOA	Leave of Absence
MRS D	Master of Robotic Systems Development
NSH	Newell Simon Hall
OIE	Office of International Education
PCHE	Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education
RI	Robotics Institute
SCS	School of Computer Science
SIO	Student Information Online
SOC	Schedule of Classes
TA	Teaching Assistant/Assistantship
TSB	Tepper School of Business

2. Departmental Policies

A. Department Directory

A comprehensive listing of all Robotics Faculty, Staff and Students can be found on the [People of RI](#) website. General contact information for faculty, students and staff affiliated with CMU can be found via [directory search](#).

B. Bulletin Boards and Email Distribution Lists

Students are welcome to post flyers, advertisements, etc. to any bulletin board in Newell Simon Hall (NSH) common spaces (i.e. outside of elevators). MRSD students may use e-mail distribution lists to communicate messages to one another. Information about email distribution lists can be found in the [Roboguide](#).

C. Computing Facilities

Students should use the on-campus computing facilities offered by [Computing Services](#). A full list of Computer Clusters can be found [here](#). Students should adhere to the [Computing Policies and Guidelines](#).

D. Copy Machine and Fax Availability

As a courtesy, MRSD students have access to the [Document Manager](#) on the 4th floor of NSH. Students must use their personalized copy code to use the document manager. This code will allow students to print, make copies, scan documents and send faxes for up to 150 pages per month. Students should clear paper jams and re-load paper as needed. Any issues with the copy machine should be promptly reported to the MRSD Program Manager.

Students may also use public “Andrew” printing. The Andrew Printing service makes printers available in [cluster locations](#), university libraries and public areas across campus. These printers can be accessed from a cluster computer, Web Station or from your personal computer. All campus affiliates are allotted a \$40/semester print quota which is debited as you print. Some locations offer color printing and special paper sizes. Instructions on installing the print drivers can be found [here](#). For help with printing, refer to the [How to Print](#) documents.

E. Work Space

First year MRSD students have exclusive access to lab space in NSH B504/B506 to support their hands-on work for the MRSD project course. The lab space has dual-person lab-benches, arranged to accommodate 4-person teams. Students are expected to treat the space with respect and maintain their workspace and tools/supplies. Students are encouraged to use the following common spaces.

- Robolounge, NSH 1513
- Graduate Collaboration Suite, NSH 4228
- Graduate Collaboration Suite, NSH 4303/4305

The following study rooms are designated for student use.

- NSH 4224
- NSH 4228 A/B
- NSH 4501

Students are welcome to use SCS common space in NSH and GHC. Students may also access conference rooms after hours. Students are expected to return rooms to their original condition after use.

F. Key Distribution

MRSD students have key access to NSH (4). Keys are distributed to students by the MRSD Program Manager at the beginning of the academic year. It is up to the student to keep track of all keys and to return them to the MRSD Program Manager when requested. Lost keys should be reported to the MRSD Program Manager right away. First-year MRSD

students have swipe card access to the NSH B-level lab. Access is granted at the beginning of the academic year and terminated after the 2nd semester. Any access issues should be reported to the MRSD Program Manager.

G. Locker Rental

Students may rent a locker on the 4th floor of NSH to store their belongings. Students should contact [Sarah Conte](#) to complete a Locker Usage Agreement and to submit a cash deposit. The RI is not liable for materials stored in the lockers. Students may not store open liquid containers, perishables, flame-producing objects, or live animals in the lockers. The RI staff maintain keys to all lockers and have the right to open any locker at any time as deemed necessary.

H. Purchasing and Reimbursement Procedures and Policies

Purchases are made through [Christine Downey](#). Students must follow the purchasing procedures presented by Christine during the MRSD Orientation. Students should consult with Christine prior to making a purchase for the program with personal funds to make sure the amount is reimbursable under university policy.

I. Security, Repairs and Services

Students should inform the MRSD Program Manager of any non-emergency issues related to building security or repairs. If a student feels like he/she is in immediate danger [Campus Police](#) should be called at 412-268-2323.

J. Graduate Student Organizations

The [Graduate Student Assembly \(GSA\)](#) is the branch of student government that represents all graduate students at CMU. GSA maintains an e-mail distribution list that students can subscribe to called [GSA-Happenings](#). [Women@SCS](#) aims to create, encourage, and support academic, social, and professional opportunities for women in computer science and to promote the breadth of the field and its diverse community. [Dec\5](#) is a social organization that encourages interaction between different Departments and Industry partners within SCS. [RoboOrg](#) is the graduate student organization of the RI. It organizes social events and trips, maintains the RoboLounge, and is also involved in the strategic long-term planning of the RI. MRSD students are encouraged to volunteer 1-2 representatives to work with RoboOrg in an active role.

K. Community Spirit

Our sense of community is a well-known, distinguishing aspect of studying robotics at CMU. The RI is proud of our strong community spirit, which we foster through close working relationships between students, staff and faculty. People volunteer their time, energy, intellect, talent, and other skills to do many of the things that keep our environment running smoothly. These efforts include organizing seminars, serving on departmental committees, being a host during Open House, planning and running social activities, and giving tours. MRSD students are encouraged to get involved in the RI community!



3. Degree Attainment

A. Course Requirements

The degree requirements for students in the MRSD Program consist of required courses, technical electives and business electives. **To be eligible for degree certification students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 162 units of MRSD coursework as outlined in the curriculum below.** Detailed course descriptions can be found through the [Schedule of Classes \(SOC\)](#).

i. Sequence of Courses

It is recommended that students adhere to the following course sequence.

1st Semester, Fall Term – 57 units		
Course No.	Course Title	Units
16-650	Systems Engineering and Management for Robotics	12
16-642	Manipulation, Mobility & Control	12
16-681	MRSD Project I	12
16-697	Introduction to Robotics Business	9
xx-xxx	Technical Elective	12

2nd Semester, Spring Term – 57 units		
Course No.	Course Title	Units
16-720	Computer Vision	12
16-662	Robot Autonomy	12
16-682	MRSD Project II	12
16-698	Advanced Topics in Robotics Business	9
xx-xxx	Technical Elective	12

Summer Term: 3-unit Internship with a technical company (16-991)

3 rd Semester, Fall Term – 48 units		
Course No.	Course Title	Units
xx-xxx	Technical Elective	12
xx-xxx	Technical Elective	12
xx-xxx	Technical Elective	12
xx-xxx	Business Elective	6
xx-xxx	Business Elective	6

ii. Required Courses

The courses listed below are required and must be completed with a grade of “B-” or better by all students.

- Systems Engineering and Management for Robotics (16-650)
- Manipulation, Mobility & Control (16-642)
- Introduction to Robotics Business (16-697)
- Advanced Topics in Robotic Business (16-698)
- Computer Vision (16-720)
- Robot Autonomy (16-662)
- MRSD Project I (16-681)
- MRSD Project II (16-682)

iii. Elective Courses

MRSD students are required to complete a total of 5 Technical Electives and 12 units Business Electives.

A list of pre-approved Technical Electives can be found on the MRSD [Curriculum](#) webpage. Courses that are not included in the list require permission from the MRSD Program Director. To petition a course for degree inclusion the student must send an email to the MRSD Program Manager that includes that course title, name of instructor and course description. MRSD students are permitted to take up to 12 units of upper-level Undergraduate (XX-300/400 level) coursework for the degree. The MRSD program cannot guarantee the regularity with which electives will be offered – students should consult the [Schedule of Classes](#) to obtain this information. In order to satisfy the Technical Elective requirement the student must complete electives that fit the following criteria.

- At least two courses that are offered by RI exclusively (16-xxx course number)
- At least two courses that are exclusive to SCS
- A maximum of one course that is outside of SCS

The MRSD Program Manager will obtain a list of Business Electives from Heinz College (HC) and Tepper (TSB) each semester. Students get priority enrollment in courses that are on this list. The MRSD Program Manager will contact students to get their preferences for Business Electives. Should the student choose a Business Elective that is not a priority course the student will be required to follow registration procedures as outlined by the home college/department.

Students are required to obtain a grade of “C” or better in all elective courses.

B. Internship

Students are encouraged to carry out a 3-month summer internship between the 2nd and 3rd semester.

Students choosing to complete a MRSD-relevant summer internship will be registered for 3 units of 16-991 "Internship". The 3 units are counted towards the Technical Elective requirement and will factor into the 162 unit total required for graduation (thus allowing students who complete an internship the flexibility to take a 9-unit Technical Elective). Internships are expected to fall within the summer term as outlined by the University [Academic Calendar](#). Interns are required to submit a final end-of-internship report documenting the work that they carried out as part of their internship. The MRSD Program Director will review the reports and assign a Pass/Fail grade at the end of the summer term.

International students are required to consult with the Office of International Education for eligibility before seeking an internship/co-op or signing an offer contract.

C. Registration Process

MRSD students are responsible for managing their registration via [Student Information Online](#) (SIO).

- Required Courses: The MRSD Program Manager will register students for all required courses
- Technical Electives: Students are responsible for registering for technical electives
- Business Electives:
 - Students taking business electives from Heinz College (HC) should register for the course and/or add themselves to the waitlist. The MRSD Program Manager will work with HC to enroll students from the waitlist.
 - Students taking business elective(s) from the Tepper School of Business (TSB) should complete a survey from the MRSD Program Manager to request courses. Students may follow the [TSB registration procedure](#) for non-MBA students to make additional course requests.

i. Drop/Add Procedures

Students must adhere to the drop/add deadlines outlined by the University. Students should take note of the differing drop/add deadlines for HC and TSB courses.

- [HC Academic Calendar](#)
- [TSB Academic Calendar](#)

ii. Withdrawing/Dropping Courses

Students at CMU may drop a course through SIO on or before the drop deadline as published in the official university [academic calendar](#). When a course is dropped by the designated deadline, the course is removed and does not appear on the academic record. After the deadline to drop, students may withdraw from a course by accessing SIO on or before the last day of class, prior to the beginning of final examinations. After the deadline to drop, a “W” (withdrawal) grade is assigned and appears on the student's academic record.

Due to the structured curriculum for the MRSD program students are discouraged from dropping or withdrawing from courses. Prior to dropping/withdrawing from a course the student should consult with the MRSD Program Director and Program Manager to confirm that this is the best option. Students will be required to make up the dropped course and/or units at a later date in order to be eligible for graduation.

iii. Courses Outside of the Curriculum

The MRSD program curriculum is designed to occupy a student’s full-time effort. Students who wish to enroll for additional courses outside of the curriculum will be charged for the extra courses on a per-unit basis. Due to the intensive and collaborative nature of the program, the MRSD Program Office cautions students against enrolling in extra coursework.

iv. PCHE

CMU offers students the opportunity to take courses for credit through the [Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education \(PCHE\)](#) cross-registration program. Both CMU courses *and* courses taken through the university's cross-registration program will have grades recorded on the transcript and be factored into the QPA. With the approval of the Program Director, MRSD students are permitted to enroll in up to one relevant elective course through the PCHE program.

D. Advising

MRSD students are advised by the MRSD Program Director and the MRSD Academic Program Manager. Students are welcome and encouraged to seek faculty and other students for specific technical guidance if required.

E. Statute of Limitations

Per [University Policy](#), Students will complete all requirements for the Master’s degree within a maximum of seven years from original matriculation as a Master’s student. Once this time-to-degree limit has lapsed, the person may resume work towards a Master’s degree only if newly admitted to a currently offered Master’s degree program under criteria determined by that program.

Under extenuating circumstances, such as leave of absence, military or public service, family/parental leave, or temporary disability, a college/school may, upon the relevant department's recommendation and with the written approval of the dean (or designate), defer the lapse for a period commensurate with the duration of that interruption.

F. Full-time Status and Part-time Status

The MRSD program is designed to be completed full-time in 16 months. To maintain full-time status, the student must register for a minimum of 36 units per semester. Students with fewer than 36 units are considered part-time and will be

assessed tuition on a per-unit basis. Students who are registered full-time as of the 10th day of classes are expected to remain full-time for the duration of the semester.

The MRSD program offers part-time enrollment at the discretion of the Program Director. The part-time candidate must apply and be accepted into the MRSD program, and commit to completing the entire curriculum within the statute of limitations.

G. Residency Requirements

Students are required to complete the course requirements in their entirety at the Carnegie Mellon University - Pittsburgh campus. MRSD does not offer an option for distance learning. Students are required to be present on campus to complete all course requirements. In many cases, the optional internship will be carried out at an off-site location with an approved industrial partner.

H. Double Counting Courses

Students in the MRSD program are prohibited from double-counting courses. A course that has been counted towards another degree cannot be counted towards fulfilling course requirements for MRSD. Courses may not count for more than one requirement within the Master's program.

I. Waiver Policy

At the discretion of the MRSD Program Director, a student may be permitted to waive a core course requirement. Should a student obtain a waiver for a core course, he/she will still be responsible for completing 162 units. Essentially, the student would be permitted to take an approved elective in place of the core course.

Waivers will be considered if the student would be willing to take and successfully pass a commensurate final exam in the offered MRSD course, as given by the course instructor, and/or the student would be willing to successfully pass a verbal and interactive discussion/review/test on the various subjects taught in a particular course, as administered by the relevant faculty instructor.

J. Transfer Courses

The MRSD program does **not** allow students to transfer previously taken courses from other Universities to meet the program requirements. The MRSD courses are tailored to a specific content not typically available in other courses, making it difficult to allow the transfer of previous coursework.

K. Grading Policy

The CMU grading policy is outlined on the [University Grading Policy](#) website.

MRSD students will be awarded a letter grade for all required courses and electives. Students must earn a grade of "B-" or better in all required courses in order for the course to count towards the MRSD degree requirements. Should a student receive a grade that is less than satisfactory in a required course, he/she will be required to retake the course at a later date. Students failing to obtain a satisfactory grade on the second attempt will be terminated from the MRSD program.

Students must earn a grade of "C" or better in all electives for the course to count towards the MRSD degree requirements. Should a student receive a grade that is less than satisfactory in an elective class he/she will be required to make up the units through another course.

Pass/fail grades are not permitted for formal coursework used to satisfy MRSD requirements. Students will earn a Pass/fail grade for internship. Audit grades are not permitted for courses used to satisfy MRSD requirements.

i. Academic Standing

At the end of each semester the MRSD Program Office will review student grades to determine if program standards are being met. Students must maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher to retain good academic standing in the program. Students dropping below a 3.0 will be required to meet with the MRSD Program Director to develop a plan for improvement. Students failing to rise above a 3.0 in the subsequent semester will be terminated from the MRSD program.

Should a student receive a grade that is less than satisfactory in a required course, he/she will be required to retake the course at a later date. Students failing to obtain a satisfactory grade on the second attempt will be terminated from the MRSD program. Due to the sequential and interactive nature of the MRSD Project Course, there is not an opportunity for a retake. Any student failing to satisfactorily pass the Project Course will be terminated from the program. Should a student receive a grade that is less than satisfactory in an elective class he/she will be required to make up the units through another course.

ii. Incomplete Grades

MRSD students are expected to complete all courses during the academic semester in which the course is taken. However, if the instructor agrees, a grade of "I" (incomplete) may be given when a student, for reasons beyond his or her control, is unable to complete the coursework, but the work completed to date is of passing quality and the grade of incomplete provides no undue advantage to that student over other students.

In awarding an "I" grade, an instructor must specify the requirements for completing the work and designate a default letter grade that will be assigned if no further work is submitted. Students must complete the required coursework no later than the end of the following academic semester or sooner if required by prior agreement. The instructor must record the permanent grade by the last day of the examination period of that following semester. Failure to do so will result in Enrollment Services administratively assigning the default grade.

L. Academic Integrity

CMU, The Robotics Institute, and the MRSD program take a serious approach to academic integrity. The MRSD program adheres to the academic integrity policies set forth by CMU. Students should review and familiarize themselves with the Universities [policy](#) and expectations for [Academic Integrity](#).

The consequences of an academic integrity violation vary depending on the severity of the incident. However, there are several outcomes that impact students during their time on campus that are common to all cases regardless of the particular details of the offense. Consequences for Academic Integrity violations are outlined [here](#). Students accused of violating the academic integrity policy should review the [Responding to Violations](#) webpage to identify the best way to move forward.

M. Teaching Assistantships

MRSD students are not required to complete a Teaching Assistantship (TA). MRSD students may TA in their third semester. Before accepting such an offer, MRSD students are required to obtain permission from the MRSD Program Director. Students receive a modest stipend as compensation for their work.

Graduate students are required to have a certain level of fluency in English before they can instruct in Pennsylvania, as required by the [English Fluency in Higher Education Act of 1990](#). Through this Act, all institutions of higher education in the state are required to evaluate and certify the English fluency of all instructional personnel, including teaching assistants and interns. Prior to working in the classroom non-native English speakers are required to complete the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) exam via the Intercultural Communication Center (ICC).

N. Switching Programs

MRSD students may apply to other RI degree programs at any point in their academic career. The MRSD program should not be viewed as a preparatory program for the PhD program, but rather as a stand-alone degree program for those

primarily interested in a professional career track. Admission to the MRSD program does not in any way signify admission to any other RI degree programs. Each of the RI's graduate programs (MS, MRSD, MSCV, MS-RT, PhD) is separate and has its own application steps, admission criteria, selection processes, and admission decisions.

O. Leave of Absence

CMU defines a Leave of Absence (LOA) as leaving the University temporarily with the firm and stated intention of returning (see [Student Leave Policy](#)). Students who wish to take a LOA must state their intentions in writing to the MRSD Program Director and Program Manager. Upon receiving the written request the MRSD Program Office will contact the student to discuss their plans while on leave and to work out any conditions that may be necessary for a smooth return to CMU. Once all parties are in agreement that LOA is the best way to move forward the student will be required to complete a [Leave of Absence \(.pdf\)](#) form. The form must include **all** necessary signatures or the process will not be completed.

Students taking a LOA before completing 60% of the semester will be charged tuition based on the number of days completed within the semester (see [Tuition Adjustments](#)). There is no adjustment of the media fee, transportation fee, technology fee or student activities fee. Students needing an adjustment to the health assessment fee must contact [Student Health Services](#).

Students wishing to return from LOA to resume their studies should follow the [Return from Leave Policy](#) and complete a [Return from Leave of Absence \(.pdf\)](#) form. All degree requirements must be completed before the Statute of Limitations for MS students.

P. Withdrawing from Degree Program

CMU defines a withdrawal as leaving the University with no intention of returning (see [Student Leave Policy](#)). Students who wish to withdraw from the CMU MRSD program must state their intentions in writing to the MRSD Program Director and Program Manager. The student is then required to complete the [Withdrawal \(.pdf\)](#) form. The form must include **all** necessary signatures or the process will not be completed.

Students who withdraw before completing 60% of the semester will be charged tuition based on the number of days completed within the semester (see [Tuition Adjustments](#)). There is no adjustment of the media fee, transportation fee, technology fee or student activities fee. Students needing an adjustment to the health assessment fee must contact [Student Health Services](#).

Q. Enrollment Verification

Enrollment Services is the only University office that can provide an official letter of enrollment, official transcript and enrollment verification. Enrollment verification can be requested online through The HUB at: <http://www.cmu.edu/hub/records/verifications/index.html>.

R. Degree Certification

Upon satisfactory completion of 162 units of degree requirements, the Master of Science (MS) degree will be certified by the MRSD Program Manager. The majority of students are certified in December. In rare cases, students are required to continue work into the spring semester; in these situations degrees will be certified at the end of the spring semester or upon completion of required deliverables.

4. Financial Policies

A. Departmental Financial Support

The RI does not offer financial support to MRSD students. Accepted students are expected to be fully self-supported, including tuition, fees, health insurance and any additional costs for books, supplies, room and board.

B. Student Fees

Students are responsible for paying all fees in a timely manner. Failure to pay fees will result in the inability to register for subsequent semesters and/or a hold on the student diploma.

C. Health Insurance

Students are required to maintain health insurance and are responsible for enrolling and paying the balance each year. Information can be found on the Health Services [website](#).

D. Travel & Conference Funding

MRSD does not provide funds for travel and/or conferences. Students may obtain funding for such activities via an application process sponsored by GSA and the Provost's Office. The process is managed by the Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education. Students can find more information about the application process/deadlines [here](#).

E. Additional Sources for Financial Support

Students may work as a TA during the third semester and compensation will be provided. Students may work in a research lab for compensation, if hired by a faculty member.

F. Scholarship & Fellowship Opportunities

While the RI is not able to provide financial assistance, students are encouraged to identify scholarship and/or fellowship opportunities from external agencies. In particular, we encourage students to review and apply for [SMART Scholarships](#) funded by the Department of Defense.

Students may also review the on-line information provided by the CMU [Fellowship and Scholarship Office](#). This website is an excellent resource for locating an abundance of information regarding available funding for students.

G. Outside Employment

Due to the time-consuming curriculum of the MRSD program students are not advised to accept employment while enrolled in the program as a full-time student. International students must contact the Office of International Education regarding ability to hold employment.

H. University Financial Aid

Graduate students should consult the graduate student financial aid information found [here](#). Graduate students who find themselves in need of immediate funds for emergency situations should contact the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs to inquire about a short-term [Emergency Student Loan](#) for supplies, medication, food or other unexpected circumstances. The emergency-based loan is an interest-free loan repayable within 30 days. Students seeking to make payments to their student account in installments should consult the CMU [Payment Plan](#) website.

I. Per Unit Tuition Rate for Additional Courses

The MRSD Program Office discourages students from enrolling in additional coursework. The curriculum is designed to occupy full-time effort and the tuition is based on the standard curriculum. Students interested in enrolling in courses beyond the curriculum will be required to pay for the extra courses. The rate for the 2016-2017 academic year is \$694/unit.

5. Additional Department and University Policies/Protocols

A. Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

The Office of Disability Resources at Carnegie Mellon University has a continued mission to provide physical and programmatic campus access to all events and information within the Carnegie Mellon community. We work to ensure that qualified individuals receive reasonable accommodations as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students who would like to receive accommodations must submit a Voluntary Disclosure of Disability Form to access@andrew.cmu.edu to begin the interactive accommodation process.

For more information please see <http://www.cmu.edu/hr/eos/disability/index.html>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to self-identify with Equal Opportunity Services by contacting Larry Powell, 412-268-2013, lpowell@andrew.cmu.edu to access the services available at the university and initiate a request for accommodations.

B. Protocol for Review of Academic Conflicts

Graduate students should refer to the [Graduate Student Appeal and Grievance Procedures](#) for a summary of processes available to graduate students who seek review of academic and non-academic issues. Graduate students are expected to seek informal resolution of all concerns within the Department, unit or program before invoking formal processes. When an informal resolution cannot be reached, a graduate student who seeks further review of the matter is to follow the formal procedures as outlined. The appeal and grievance procedures shall apply to students in all graduate programs of the University. Students should refer to the department specific information in this handbook for department and college information about the administration and academic policies of the program. Students may confer with the graduate student ombudsman, Suzie Laurich-McIntyre, slaurichmcintyre@cmu.edu, on issues of process or other concerns as they navigate conflicts.

C. Policy Against Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault

Sexual harassment and sexual assault are prohibited by CMU, as is retaliation for having brought forward a concern or allegation in good faith. The policy can be viewed in its entirety at:

http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/SA_SH.html

If you believe you have been the victim of sexual harassment or sexual assault, you are encouraged to make contact with any of the following resources:

- Office of Title IX Initiatives, <http://www.cmu.edu/title-ix/>, 412-268-7125
- Sexual Harassment Advisors, found in appendix A of the Policy Against Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault;
- Survivor Support Network, found in appendix B of the Policy Against Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault;
- Sexual Harassment Process and Title IX Coordinators, found in section II of the Policy Against Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault;
- University Police, 412-268-2323
- University Health Services, 412-268-2157
- Counseling & Psychological Services, 412-268-2922

D. Maternity Accommodation Protocol

Students whose anticipated delivery date is during the course of the semester may consider taking time away from their coursework and/or research responsibilities. All female students who give birth to a child while engaged in coursework or research are eligible to take either a short-term absence or formal leave of absence. Students in course work should consider either working with their course instructor to receive incomplete grades, or elect to drop to part-time status or to take a semester leave of absence. Students engaged in research must work with their faculty to develop plans for the research for the time they are away.

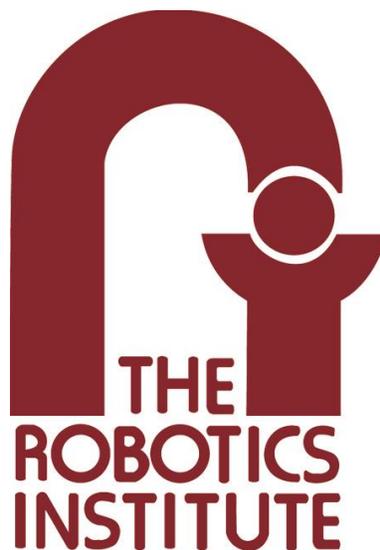
Students are encouraged to consult with relevant university faculty and staff as soon as possible as they begin making plans regarding time away. Students must contact the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs to register for Maternity Accommodations. Students will complete an information form and meet with a member of the Dean's Office staff to determine resources and procedures appropriate for the individual student. Planning for the student's discussion with her academic contact(s) (advisor, associate dean, etc.) will be reviewed during this meeting.

E. Grandfather Policy

When policies are changed it is because the department believes the new rules offer an improvement. Currently enrolled students whose degree program is affected by a change in policy may choose to be governed by the old policy that was in place at the time of their matriculation or the new policy. In case degree requirements are changed and certain courses are no longer offered, the department will try to find some compromise that allows those students to satisfy the original requirements.

F. Vacations and Time-Off

Students are expected to follow the academic calendar to determine appropriate vacation time.



Appendix A

A. Key Offices for Graduate Student Support

i. Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education

www.cmu.edu/graduate; grad-ed@cmu.edu

The Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education, AVPGE, directed by Suzie Laurich-McIntyre, Ph.D., Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education, provides central support for graduate students in a number of roles. These include: being an ombudsperson and resource person for graduate students as an informal advisor; resolving formal and informal graduate student appeals; informing and assisting in forming policy and procedures relevant to graduate students; and working with departments on issues related to graduate students and implementation of programs in support of graduate student development.

The Office of the AVPGE often partners with the division of Student Affairs to assist graduate students with their Carnegie Mellon experience. Senior members of the student affairs staff are assigned to each college (college liaisons) and are often consulted by the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education and departments on an individual basis to respond to graduate student needs.

The Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education (AVPGE) offers a robust schedule of professional development opportunities. Some are geared towards a specific population (master's students, PhD students at the beginning of their program, graduate students seeking tenure track positions, etc.) and others are open to all graduate students (time management, balancing, staying healthy). A full schedule of programs can be found at: <http://www.cmu.edu/graduate/>.

The Office of the AVPGE also coordinates several funding programs, and academically focused seminars and workshops that advise, empower and help retain all graduate students, particularly graduate students of color and women in the science and technical fields. The fundamental goals of our programs have been constant: first, to support, advise and guide individual graduate students as they work to complete their degrees; second, to contribute to the greatest degree possible to the diversification of the academy. Visit the Graduate Education website for information about:

- Conference Funding Grants
- Graduate Small Project Help (GuSH) Research Funding
- Graduate Student Professional Development: seminars, workshops and resources
- Graduate Women Gatherings (GWG)
- Inter-university Graduate Students of Color Series (SOC)

ii. Office of the Dean of Student Affairs

www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/index.html

The Office of the Dean provides central leadership of the meta-curricular experience at Carnegie Mellon. The offices that fall under the division of Student Affairs, led by Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs Gina Casalegno, include (not an exhaustive list):

- Career and Professional Development Center
- Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS)
- Office of Integrity and Community Standards
- Office of International Education (OIE)
- Cohon University Center
- Dining Services
- Housing Services
- Student Activities
- University Health Services

Graduate students will find the enrollment information for **Domestic Partner Registration** and **Maternity Accommodations** in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs and on the website. The Office of the Dean of Student Affairs also manages the **Emergency Student Loan (ESLs)** process. The Emergency Student Loan service is made available through the generous gifts of alumni and friends of the university. The Emergency Student Loan is an interest-free, emergency-based loan repayable within 30 days. Loans are available to enrolled students for academic supplies, medication, food or other expenses not able to be met due to unforeseeable circumstances. The Office of Integrity and Community Standards also provides consultation, support, resources and follow-up on questions and issues of Academic Integrity: www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity.

iii. Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

www.cmu.edu/hr/eos/disability/

Students with disabilities are encouraged to self-identify with Equal Opportunity Services by contacting Larry Powell, 412-268-2013, lpowell@andrew.cmu.edu to access the services available at the university and initiate a request for accommodations.

iv. Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation

www.cmu.edu/teaching

Support for graduate students who are or will be teaching is provided in many departments and centrally by the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation. The Eberly Center offers activities for current and prospective teaching assistants as well as any graduate students who wish to prepare for the teaching component of an academic career. The Center also assists departments in creating and conducting programs to meet the specific needs of students in their programs. Specific information about Eberly Center support for graduate students can be found at:

www.cmu.edu/teaching/graduatestudentsupport/index.html.

v. Carnegie Mellon Ethics Hotline

The health, safety and well-being of the university community are top priorities at Carnegie Mellon University. CMU provides a hotline that all members of the university community should use to confidentially report suspected unethical activity relating to financial matters, academic and student life, human relations, health and campus safety or research.

Students, faculty and staff can anonymously file a report by calling 877-700-7050 or visiting www.reportit.net (user name: tartans; password: plaid). All submissions will be reported to appropriate university personnel. **The hotline is NOT an emergency service. For emergencies, call University Police at 412-268-2323.**

vi. Graduate Student Assembly

www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/index.html

The Carnegie Mellon Student Government consists of an Executive Branch and a Legislative Branch. This is the core of traditional student government, as governed by the Student Body Constitution. The Executive Branch serves the entire student body, graduate and undergraduate, and consists of one president and four vice-presidents. The Legislative Branch for graduate students, The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) passes legislation, allocates student activities funding, advocates for legislative action locally and in Washington D.C. on behalf of graduate student issues and needs, and otherwise acts on behalf of all graduate student interests. GSA also contributes a significant amount of funding for conferences and research, available to graduate students through application processes managed by the Office of the Assistant Vice Provost for Graduate Education. GSA also plans various social opportunities for graduate students and maintains a website of graduate student resources on and off-campus, www.cmu.edu/stugov/gsa/Resources. Each department has representation on GSA and receives funding directly from GSA's use of the student activities

fee for departmental activities for graduate students. The department rep(s) is the main avenue of graduate student representation of and information back to the graduate students in the department.

vii. Intercultural Communication Center (ICC)

www.cmu.edu/icc/

The Intercultural Communication Center (ICC) is a support service offering both credit and non-credit classes, workshops, and individual appointments designed to equip nonnative English speakers (international students as well as international students who attended high school and/or undergraduate programs in the U.S.) with the skills needed to succeed in academic programs at Carnegie Mellon. In addition to developing academic literacy skills such as speaking, reading and writing, students can learn more about the culture and customs of the U.S. classroom. The ICC also helps international teaching assistants (ITAs) who are non-native English speakers develop fluency and cultural understanding to teach successfully at Carnegie Mellon and provides ITA testing, required testing indicating a nonnative speaking student has a language proficiency required before being allowed to work with undergraduates in classes, labs or individual meetings.

viii. Office of International Education (OIE)

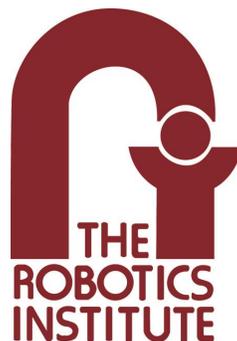
www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/

Carnegie Mellon hosts international graduate and undergraduate students who come from more than 90 countries. Office of International Education (OIE) is the liaison to the University for all non-immigrant students and scholars. OIE provides many services including: advising on personal, immigration, academic, social and acculturation issues; presenting programs of interest such as international career workshops, tax workshops, and cross-cultural and immigration workshops; supporting international and cultural student groups such as the International Student Union and the International Spouses and Partners Organization; maintaining a resource library that includes information on cultural adjustment, international education and statistics on international students in the United States; posting pertinent information to students through email and the OIE website, and conducting orientation programs.

ix. Veterans and Military Community

<http://www.cmu.edu/veterans/>

Military veterans are a vital part of the Carnegie Mellon University community. Graduate students can find information on applying veteran education benefits, campus services, veteran's groups at CMU, non-educational resources and international military service information through the Veterans and Military Community website. There are also links and connections to veteran resource in the Pittsburgh community. The Naval ROTC and Veteran Affairs Offices are located at 4615 Forbes Avenue, uro-vaedbenefts@andrew.cmu.edu, 412-268-8747.



B. Key Offices for Academic & Research Support

i. **Computing and Information Resources**

www.cmu.edu/computing

Computing Services provides a comprehensive computing environment at Carnegie Mellon. Graduate students should seek Computing Services for information and assistance with your Andrew account, network access, computing off-campus, campus licensed software, email, calendar, mobile devices, computer security, cluster services and printing. Computing Services can be reached at it-help@cmu.edu.

The Carnegie Mellon Computing Policy establishes guidelines and expectations for the use of computing, telephone and information resources on campus. The policy is supported by a number of guidelines graduate students should know. The policy and guidelines are available at:

www.cmu.edu/computing/guideline/index.html.

ii. **Research at CMU**

www.cmu.edu/research/index.shtml

The primary purpose of research at the university is the advancement of knowledge in all fields in which the university is active. Research is regarded as one of the university's major contributions to society and as an essential element in education, particularly at the graduate level and in faculty development. Research activities are governed by several university policies. Guidance and more general information is found by visiting the Research at Carnegie Mellon website.

iii. **Office of Research Integrity & Compliance**

www.cmu.edu/research-compliance/index.html

The Office of Research Integrity & Compliance (ORIC) is designed to support research at Carnegie Mellon University. The staff work with researchers to ensure research is conducted with integrity and in accordance with federal and Pennsylvania regulation. ORIC assists researchers with human subject research, conflicts of interest, responsible conduct of research, export controls, intellectual property rights and regulations, and institutional animal care & use. ORIC also consults on, advises about and handles allegations of research misconduct.

C. Key Offices for Health, Wellness & Safety

i. **Counseling & Psychological Services**

www.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/counseling

Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) affords the opportunity for students to talk privately about issues that are significant for them in a safe, confidential setting. Students sometimes feel confused about why they are feeling upset and perhaps confused about how to deal with it. An initial consultation with a CAPS therapist will clarify options and provide a recommendation to the appropriate mental health resource at Carnegie Mellon or the larger Pittsburgh community. CAPS services are provided at no cost. Appointments can be made in person or by telephone, 412-268-2922.

ii. **Health Services**

www.cmu.edu/HealthServices/

University Health Services (UHS) is staffed by physicians, advanced practice clinicians and registered nurses who provide general medical care, allergy injections, first aid, gynecological care and contraception as well as on-site pharmaceuticals. The CMU student insurance plan covers most visit fees to see the physicians and advanced practice clinicians & nurse visits. Fees for prescription medications, laboratory tests, diagnostic procedures and referral to the emergency room or specialists are the student's responsibility and students should review the UHS website and their insurance plan for detailed information about the university health insurance requirement and fees. UHS also has a registered dietician and health promotion specialists on staff to assist students in addressing nutrition, drug and alcohol and other healthy lifestyle issues. In addition to providing direct health care, UHS administers the Student Health Insurance Program. The Student Health

Insurance plan offers a high level of coverage in a wide network of health care providers and hospitals. Graduate students should contact UHS to discuss options for health insurance for spouses, domestic partners and dependents. Appointments can be made by visiting UHS's website or by telephone, 412-268-2157.

iii. University Police

<http://www.cmu.edu/police/>

412-268-2323 (emergency only), 412-268-6232 (non-emergency)

The University Police Department is located at 300 South Craig Street, Room 199 (entrance is on Filmore Street). The department's services include police patrols and call response, criminal investigations, shuttle and escort services, fixed officer and foot officer patrols, event security, and crime prevention and education programming. Visit the department's website for additional information about the staff, escort and shuttle, emergency phone locations, crime prevention, lost and found, finger print services, and annual statistic reports.

Shuttle and Escort Services

University Police coordinates the Shuttle Service and Escort Service provided for CMU students, faculty, and community. Full information about these services, stops, routes, tracking and schedules can be found online at: <http://www.cmu.edu/police/shuttleandescort/>

Carnegie Mellon University publishes an annual campus security and fire safety report describing the university's security, alcohol and drug, sexual assault, and fire safety policies and containing statistics about the number and type of crimes committed on the campus and the number and cause of fires in campus residence facilities during the preceding three years. Graduate students can obtain a copy by contacting the University Police Department at 412-268-6232. The annual security and fire safety report is also available online at www.cmu.edu/police/annualreports.

D. The WORD <http://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/theword//>

The WORD is Carnegie Mellon University's student handbook and is considered a supplement to the department (and sometimes college) handbook. The WORD contains campus resources and opportunities, academic policy information, community standards, and other resources. It is designed to provide all students with the tools, guidance, and insights to achieve full potential as a member of the Carnegie Mellon community. Information about the following is included in The WORD (not an exhaustive list), so graduate students are encouraged to bookmark this site and refer to it often. University policies can also be found in full text at: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/>

Carnegie Mellon Vision, Mission

Carnegie Code

Academic Standards, Policies and Procedures

 Educational Goals

 Academic and Individual Freedom

 Statement on Academic Integrity

 Standards for Academic & Creative Life

Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities

Master's Student Statute of Limitations

Conduct of Classes

Copyright Policy

Cross-college & University Registration

Doctoral Student Status Policy

Evaluation & Certification of English Fluency for Instructors

Final Exams for Graduate Courses	Shuttle and Escort Services
Grading Policies	Spiritual Development
Intellectual Property Policy	University Police
Privacy Rights of Students	Student Activities
Research	University Stores
Human Subjects in Research	Community Standards, Policies and Procedures
Office of Research Integrity & Compliance	Alcohol and Drugs Policy
Office of Sponsored Programs	AIDS Policy
Policy for Handling Alleged Misconduct of Research	Bicycle/Wheeled Transportation Policy
Policy on Restricted Research	Damage to Carnegie Mellon Property
Student's Rights	Deadly Weapons
Tax Status of Graduate Student Awards	Discriminatory Harassment
Campus Resources & Opportunities	Disorderly Conduct
Alumni Relations	Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy
Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities	Freedom of Expression Policy
Athletics, Physical Fitness & Recreation	Health Insurance Policy
Carnegie Mellon ID Cards and Services	Immunization Policy
Cohon University Center	Missing Student Protocol
Copying, Printing & Mailing	Non-Discrimination Policy
Division of Student Affairs	On-Campus Emergencies
Domestic Partner Registration	Pets
Emergency Student Loan Program	Political Activities
Gender Programs & Resources	Recycling Policy
Health Services	Riotous and Disorderly Behavior
Dining Services	Safety Hazards
The HUB Student Services Center	Scheduling and Use of University Facilities
ID Card Services	Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault Policy
Leonard Gelfand Center	Smoking Policy
LGBTQ Resources	Student Accounts Receivable and Collection
Multicultural and Diversity Initiatives	Policy and Procedures
Opportunities for Involvement	Student Activities Fee
Parking and Transportation Services	Student Enterprises
SafeWalk	Workplace Threats and Violence Policy
Survivor Support Network	

Carnegie Mellon University