Advising

1. **How do I find a secondary advisor?**
   If you don't already have someone in mind, speak to your primary advisor. They should be able to suggest the department that best matches your interests, and perhaps even a specific faculty member. You may need to review the research of several faculty members before finding a good match. Once you've identified someone you'd like to work with, confirm with your primary advisor that they agree with your choice, and discuss the best way to contact that person.

2. **Does my secondary advisor need to be in one of the "participating departments?"**
   No. Your secondary advisor can be in any department, or even in industry. However, this person must be fully committed to advising you in-depth and genuinely concerned about your success as a Data Science Ph. D.

3. **What is my secondary advisor responsible for?**
   Your secondary advisor is the person who helps make you pi (π) shaped! This person provides direction in the methods, models, and questions around Big Data in a complementary field. This is also the person you will do your two-quarter long Interdisciplinary Project with.

4. **Does my primary advisor from the participating department have to be one of the faculty members listed on the Participating Departments web page?**
   No. Any faculty member in a participating department can be your primary advisor.

5. **What if I am in a department that is not listed as a participating department?**
   Contact us! Although IGERT funding is limited, the long-term goal of the program is to develop permanent data science curriculum across campus. We welcome inquiries from interested departments. Send email to Magda Balazinska and/or Jennifer Worrell.

Curriculum / Course Requirements

1. **If I take a course that fulfills an IGERT requirement before I'm officially part of the IGERT program, does it still count?**
   Yes.

Applying to the IGERT Program

1. **How do I apply to the IGERT Program?**
   Application information can be found on the Applications page. You should discuss your application with your primary advisor.

2. **Is the IGERT Program the same as my home department's Advanced Data Science Option?**
   Yes and no. The IGERT Program and an individual department's Advanced Data Science Option will have overlapping elements, but will not be exactly the same.

There are four core courses that the IGERT Program and any Advanced Data Science Option will have in common. You must take 3 of these 4 courses.

Departments may have restrictions on which of these courses you take, and/or may have additional requirements for completion of their Option.

The IGERT Program requires that you have two advisors, complete an interdisciplinary project, pursue a thesis in the area of big data/data science, attend a special seminar series, and complete at least one internship *in addition to* your home department's Advanced Data Science Option requirements.

It is possible to complete a departmental Advanced Data Science Option without being an IGERT student; it is NOT possible to complete the IGERT program without also completing a departmental Advanced Data Science Option.

3. **Can I complete a Big Data Track without being part of IGERT?**
   Yes! Participating departments have approved Advanced Data Science Options independently of the IGERT Program. Please see the details on the appropriate department's web page, and discuss your plans with your faculty advisor and departmental grad advisor.

4. **What if I am in a department that is not listed as a participating department?**
   Contact us! Although IGERT funding is limited, the long-term goal of the program is to develop permanent data science curriculum across campus. We welcome inquiries from interested departments. Send email to Magda Balazinska and/or Jennifer Worrell.