

**Supplementary Departmental Assessment Report
21 May 2021**

Department or Program: Computer and Information Science (CIS), MS and PhD degrees
Academic Year of Report: 2019 and 2020
Department Contact Person for Assessment: J Sventek

N.B. The draft Learning Outcome Assessment Plan for the MS and PhD degrees was filed on 14 December 2018. No response was ever received from CAS, the graduate school, or the Provost's office regarding the acceptability of the draft; thus, no action was taken with respect to the assessment plan for academic year 2018 (i.e., no assessment was filed in Fall, 2019). All annual assessment reports were abandoned by the university for academic year 2019 due to the Covid pandemic. Service duties during academic year 2020 were reduced to essential duties. The curriculum committee and graduation education committee in CIS determined that an assessment report for 2020, as for 2019, was not required, even absent the official acceptance of the draft assessment plan filed in December 2018. On 10 May 2021 the curriculum committee learned that a supplementary report was required by 21 May 2021. Since we do not know that the draft plan is acceptable, and since we operated during both 2019 and 2020 academic years under the assumption that no report would be required, we are unable to provide an assessment at this time.

Section 1: Learning Objectives Assessed for this Report

None.

Section 2: Assessment Activities

None

Section 3: Actions Taken Based on Assessment Analysis

None

Section 4: Other Efforts to Improve the Student Educational Experience

The pandemic has been very hard on faculty and graduate students alike. Other efforts include:

- Faculty advisors have been encouraged to proactively interact with their advisees, not just with respect to the students' research agendas, but also to focus on quality of life issues that the lockdown is likely to have triggered.
- A number of town halls, conducted by the head of department and chair of the graduate education committee, have been held to enable graduate students to voice concerns.
- Relaxation of deadlines for progression events has been applied where necessary to accommodate additional research time necessitated by pandemic conditions.
- A faculty task force investigated the experiences of the department's large intake of female graduate students in Fall 2018.

Section 5: Plans for Next Year

Assuming that the draft plan is acceptable, the following will be assessed in academic 2021.

MS

LO1 - Core Knowledge Breadth: Demonstrate a working knowledge of major theories, research findings, and methodological approaches within Computer Science (Foundations, Systems, Data Science).

LO4 - Scientific Inquiry: Achieve a deep fluency in the scientific literature and compelling questions within a primary field of research, and achieve proficiency in relevant experimental design, methodology, and data analysis/statistical methods. (applicable to students pursuing a thesis option)

PhD

LO1 – **Core Knowledge Breadth:** Demonstrate a working knowledge of major theories, research findings, and methodological approaches within Computer Science (Foundations, Systems, Data Science).

LO4 - **Scientific Inquiry:** Achieve a deep fluency in the scientific literature and compelling questions within a primary field of research, and achieve proficiency in relevant experimental design, methodology, and data analysis/statistical methods. (applicable to students pursuing a thesis option)

The graduate education committee, with assistance from the curriculum committee, will devise metrics for these learning objectives prior to Fall 2021 so that an appropriate assessment can be produced and submitted in Fall 2022 for the 2021 academic year.