M.S.C.S. Non-thesis Option
Degree Program Assessment Plan
(Approved by the CS faculty on November 22, 2013)

Degree Program: M.S.C.S. Non-thesis Option (346000MS)
Department or School: Computer Science
College: Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences
Assessment Coordinator: Tim O’Neil
Department Chair or School Director: Yingcai (Tom) Xiao
Semester of this Program Update: Fall 2013

Program Mission and Goals:

The mission of this program is to produce students at the Masters Level who are proficient in academic skills leading to employment in Computer Science and related fields or admission to Computer Science Ph.D. programs. The objective is to graduate students within four to five semesters of full-time academic work.

Previous Program Modifications:

Fall 2011, adjusted admission requirements and application deadlines. Adopted new course names and numbers (Program Change Proposal #AS_11_059.)

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to apply advanced knowledge and skills in solving complex computing problems.
2. Students will be able to communicate effectively about complex computing solutions.

Assessment Plan:

Learning Outcome 1: Students will be able to apply advanced knowledge and skills in solving complex computing problems.

Rubric for Learning Outcome 1: Student will formulate a problem, design and implement a solution to the problem. The student will make a poster presentation at the department’s annual CS/IT Day or at the university's annual UASIS (Student Innovation Symposium) events. The judges of the events will evaluate both the formulation and the solution. Student work will be scored using the following rubric:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Good/Solid</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Project is not correctly specified, designed or implemented.</td>
<td>Project is partially specified, designed and implemented with major deficiencies.</td>
<td>Project is largely specified, designed and implemented with several minor deficiencies.</td>
<td>Project is almost completely specified, designed and implemented with only a few minor deficiencies.</td>
<td>Project is completely specified, designed and implemented with no deficiencies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Learning Outcome 2: Students will be able to communicate effectively about complex computing solutions.

Rubric for Learning Outcome 2: The judges for CS/IT Day or UASIS will also assess the student’s poster and the brief oral presentation regarding his/her work. Student performance will be scored using the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
<th>Poor</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Good/Solid</th>
<th>Exemplary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Quality of the poster presentation and/or project demonstration is poor, with lack of detail or professional presentation.</td>
<td>Quality of the poster presentation and/or project demonstration is fair, with much room for improvement in content and professional presentation.</td>
<td>Quality of the poster presentation and/or project demonstration is fair, with room for improvement in content.</td>
<td>Quality of the poster presentation and/or project demonstration is good.</td>
<td>Quality of the poster presentation and/or project demonstration is excellent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very poor oral communication skills, with little ability to answer any questions or participate in a discussion with reviewers.</td>
<td>Poor oral communication skills, with ability to answer some questions and participate at a low level of discussion with reviewers.</td>
<td>Acceptable oral communication skills, with ability to answer most questions and participate at a moderate level of discussion with reviewers.</td>
<td>Good oral communication skills, with ability to answer questions and participate at a high level of discussion with reviewers.</td>
<td>Excellent oral communication skills, with ability to answer questions and participate in a rigorous level of discussion with reviewers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Collection Plan:

Learning Outcomes 1 and 2: Data will be collected at the annual CS/IT Day or UASIS events held during the student’s last year of study.