

Date: April 18, 2008

To: All CS & CIS Graduate Students:

Over the past two years, the Computer Science & Information Systems Department has reviewed its graduate curriculum. This review has resulted in some curriculum revisions for these programs. The newly established curriculum will impact the graduate student graduation requirements. The new curriculum is now in the process of approval by the university curriculum committee and university senate. The Department has decided to implement the following changes from this review during the fall semester, 2008.

1. Programming test

Beginning with students entering the MS degree program in the fall semester of 2008, there will be no separate programming test as a part of the graduation requirement for all CS and CIS graduate students. A programming test will become a part of the newly developed CS502 "Advanced Programming" course examination. Students with a weaker academic record in computer programming that are admitted to the program will be required to take CS502 as their prerequisite.

For current CS & CIS graduate students who have not passed the programming test at this time, the department will offer a 1 credit hour "CS410: Programming lab in C++" course during Summer I session, 2008. A programming test will be given as a part of the final exam for this class. All current students have the option either to register for the class or to take the regular programming test in fall, 2008.

2. Comprehensive Exam

The current CS and CIS comprehensive exam format is being re-evaluated as a part of the new curriculum. The new comprehensive exam will be implemented in the fall 2008. At this time the Department believes that the new comprehensive will reduce the number of the tests required. If so, a reduced number of examinations might also be offered to current students.

The details of these and curriculum changes will be posted on the Department web site. The Department web site will be updated regularly to allow for easier communication with students. The new curriculum will have reduced required core courses requirement and several elective concentration tracks to provide for depth of knowledge development within some area of computing. The new curriculum will make it easier for CS & CIS graduate students to work on industrial and research projects with the support of assistantships and/or external grants.

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