

UNIT REPORT

**Computer Science MS -
Institutional Effectiveness
Final Annual Report 2019**

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Definition of Unit

CSC Mission Statement

Reporting Year: 2017-18**Providing Department:** Computer Science MS**Department/Unit Contact:** Doug Talbert**Mission/Vision/Goal Statement:**

The mission of the Computer Science Department is

“Our mission is to be widely recognized for enabling students to have global impact through innovative and quality programs, through research that emphasizes collaborative partnerships, and by enabling the success of a diverse student, faculty, and alumni community.”

This mission is consistent with the University’s mission to “provide leadership and outstanding programs in engineering, the sciences, and related areas that benefit the people of Tennessee and the nation” and with the University’s commitment to the life-long success of students and to enrich the lives of people and communities in the Upper Cumberland region of Tennessee.

It is also consistent with Flight Plan, the University’s strategic plan, and it’s focus on improving student experience, transforming technology, and creating distinctive programs.

Goal/Objective/Outcome

Goal 1: Breadth and Depth of Knowledge

Define Goal:

The student should gain breadth of knowledge in the discipline and depth in the specific area of his/her specialization.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

1. The student should gain breadth of knowledge in the discipline and depth in the specific area of his/her specialization.

Goal 2: Quality research

Define Goal:

To establish and foster a culture of curiosity, excitement, collaboration, and engagement in the global research community, with a commitment to quality and academic integrity

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

2. The student should demonstrate knowledge of the techniques, methods, and disciplines of computer science research.

Goal 3: Appropriate progression and graduation rate

Define Goal:

Students should progress and graduate in a timely fashion.

Intended Outcomes / Objectives:

Assessment Tools

Graduating GPA

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goals 1-3/Learning outcomes 1–3

Type of Tool: Tracking Spreadsheet

Frequency of Assessment: Annually

Rationale:

Since our curriculum requires both breadth and depth, we believe a GPA of 3.5 or higher at the time of graduation demonstrates success in these areas. We will track the proportion of students with at least a 3.5 graduating each school year. Our target percentage is at least 70%.

Percent of students graduating with at least one research presentation or peer-reviewed publication

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 2/Learning Outcome 2

Type of Tool: Other

Frequency of Assessment: Once a year

Rationale:

Research presentations and publications provide evidence of student research and communication skills. For all graduating M.S. students each year, we compute the percent who have demonstrated such evidence. Given the short duration of the degree, we have set our desired level of attainment at 50%.

Time to degree completion

Goal/ Outcome/ Objective: Goal 3

Type of Tool: Tracking Spreadsheet

Frequency of Assessment: Annually

Rationale:

Timely graduation is important for students and for the responsible use of department resources. Students going beyond 2.5 years for their M.S. should be an exception. Our desired level of attainment is 80% graduating within 2.5 years. We are not including direct-admit PhD students who are also pursuing their M.S. degree because their timeline can be very different.

Results

Evidence of Quality Research

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Learning Objective 2

Results:

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of graduates | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| % with publication or presentation | 33.33% | 57.14% | 70% |

Attachments:

Graduating GPA

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Learning outcome 1

Results:

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of graduates | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| % with at least 3.5 | 66.67% | 71.43% | 100% |

Attachments:

Percent of students taking more than 2.5 years to complete degree

Goal/Objective/Outcome Number: Goal 3

Results:

| | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of graduates | 6 | 7 | 10 |
| % taking more than 2.5 years to complete degree | 0% | 42.9% | 0% |

Attachments:

Improvement to Assessment Plan

Updating Assessment Plan

Improvements to Assessment Plan:

We recently modified our assessment process for the our undergraduate program. We are working to update our graduate program assessment process to make it more consistent with our improved undergraduate process.