Michigan Technological University
2003-2004 Academic Unit Assessment Activities Update

Department of Computer Science (M.S. in Computer Science, Ph.D. ins CS&E, and Ph.D. in CS)
Academic Unit

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1. What, if any, changes or modifications have been made to the undergraduate and graduate unit assessment plans during the 2003-2004 academic year?

During 2004-2004, no changes were made in our assessment plans. The specific learning outcomes that are in our assessment plan are described in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Knowledge Learning Outcomes</th>
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<td><strong>Ability to be Technological Competent:</strong> Upon completion of the graduate degree, the student will be well prepared for their first position in computer science.</td>
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<td><strong>Ability to continuously be able to improve their professional skills and remain up-to-date in their field.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ability to be able to communicate effectively with users as well as peers (computing professionals) about computing issues</strong></td>
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2. Highlights of Assessment Techniques that are working well

After each graduate student’s thesis/project proposal and after that student’s thesis/project final presentation, information is collected on subject knowledge, application of professional skills, and communications. This information, in additional to any proposal, report, or thesis, comprises the students’ portfolio.”

Also during 2003-2004, most thesis and project option students exceeded or met the Department’s expectations of correctly knowing their subject matter and were able to apply their professional skills in thesis/project work. Most of these students also demonstrated communication skills that met or exceeded the Department’s expectations.
3. A learning outcome result that the Department is pleased to see and what it represents to the Department.

The graduate Assessment Plan has as its first Learning Outcome the need for our graduate students to be technological competent. That is, the Department seeks to determine upon completion of the graduate degree, if the graduate students will be well prepared for their first position in computer science or a related field. To measure this learning outcome the examining committee for the student’s oral presentation assesses the student’s knowledge acquired from graduate courses and graduate research. The examining committee uses a standardized form for this measurement. Most students demonstrate technological competence and this is verified by their ability to secure positions in computer science or their ability to continue on towards an advanced graduate degree.