



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

College of Engineering & Computer Science

Computer Science Department

P.O. Box 6870, Fullerton, CA 92834 T 657-278-3700 F 657-278-7168

Date: April 12, 2022

To: Dr. Susamma Barua, Dean
College of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS)

From: Chang-Hyun Jo, Chair *Chang-Hyun Jo*
Computer Science, MS-CS Program

Subject: MS in Computer Science (MS-CS) Program's Response to the Dean's Recommendations

The Computer Science Department has reviewed the Dean's Comments and Recommendations. This report is in response to the Dean's recommendations.

Response to Recommendations

1. Encourage the Thesis Option

The significant student population of this program wants to engage in industries rather than the advanced graduate (Ph.D.) programs. Therefore, naturally, most students want to choose the project option rather than the thesis option. However, a few students still prefer a thesis, and advisors are open to supporting their choices. We also offer the research option even to the graduate project through which they can perform the work equivalent to a thesis. They have various ways to publish their work through journals and conference proceedings that are more popularly read in academia and industry in this field.

2. Strengthen Student Connection to Industry

The CS Department will continue to arrange industrial board meetings to get recommendations and ideas to make the curriculum current. The CS Department operates student clubs in various fields, but the participation of graduate students is somewhat limited. We may need to encourage the graduate students to participate more actively. Currently, we prefer to hire industry-experienced engineers for adjunct faculty rather than newbies. They usually get good evaluations from students. We will continue with this hiring strategy.

3. Remap Student Outcomes and Performance Indicators

The CS assessment team is currently experimenting with the new mapping of student outcomes and their performance indicators for various graduate courses. We will continuously improve the graduate program's assessment.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

4. Balance the Required Elective Categories

When we have more faculty members in various areas and build more courses, we may be able to allocate them into appropriate categories. However, perfect balancing may not be feasible due to a lack of needs and the body of knowledge in different categories. Inherently, this program is mainly to train computing practitioners rather than to foster theoretical computer scientists. Therefore, current courses are inclined to meet such a goal.

Ending Remarks

The MS in Computer Science program will possibly grow with our society's current trends and needs. Accordingly, we need more faculty, staff, classrooms, research rooms, and associated resources to increase our capacities. We thank the college and university's current support and expect continuous help to implement proper growth. We will continuously put our best effort into making this program cultivate competent computing professionals.