



## **Assessment Report for Master of Computer and Information Science Spring, 2006**

### **Introduction**

The basic purpose of the MCIS major is to prepare students to take a leadership role in software development, primarily in the Greater Cleveland area. Students are assumed to have an undergraduate degree (or its equivalent) in a field closely related to Computer & Information Science. For those who do not, the CIS Department provides a preparatory program which covers the basic material for such a degree. In the degree program itself, students take three core courses, two relating to fundamentals of computer systems and one which is an introduction to research in CIS. The remaining courses are chosen from electives, with constraints on a student's choice of electives to ensure that students achieve depth in at least one specialization, while also requiring a minimum amount of breadth across several specializations.

### **Goals**

Goals were developed by all tenure-track faculty teaching in the MCIS program, in 2003. The goals were established by faculty consensus following a meeting to discuss the subject. We believe that, although our objectives for the MCIS program are sound, the stated goals do not convey those objectives well. Keeping this in view, the faculty of the department has started the review of goals and outcomes. A preliminary draft for revised goals have been completed and is expected to be reviewed by the faculty in the Fall of 2006.

### **Outcomes**

Outcomes were determined by all tenure-track faculty teaching in the MCIS program, in 2003. They were established by faculty consensus following a meeting to discuss the subject. A faculty committee, during the year 2005-06, reviewed the existing goals and have developed a new set of goals and outcomes that define this graduate program better than those developed in 2003. The new goal and outcome document is expected to be reviewed by the department faculty during the Fall of 2006.

### **Research Methods**

We have used essentially the same research method for the past four semesters. However, significant changes have been made in the assessment instrument to test the knowledge requirement in the program.



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**Goal 1:** In order to provide a leadership role in the development of new and existing software systems in the Computer and Information Science area, students will have sufficient programming and related technical skills in developing software systems.  
 Note: This goal has been restated compared to the previous year after the review by a faculty committee. This goal and associated outcomes will be further reviewed in the Fall of 2006.

Outcomes	Research Methods	Findings	Review	Actions
75% of the students should score 70% or better on standardized tests in two of the core MCIS courses, CIS 600 and CIS 620.	Faculty provided an assessment examination with 35 questions. These questions tested a student's knowledge in technical skills as well as several application areas.	The average score for the application areas was 55.56% and that for systems areas was 42.2% with a combined average of 51.74%. These new scores are not comparable to those of the last year since the scores for the last year reflected performance in a specific core area. Current score is based on knowledge on a wider area of the curriculum.	Results were reviewed by a faculty teaching in the program. Further review will be conducted in the Fall of 2006.	A faculty committee has done a significant review of the goals and outcomes during the 2005-06 academic year. Further review and improvements are expected to be made during the Fall of 2006.