Computer Science

WASC Assessment Plan for MS Program

Learning Outcomes

Students awarded the MS in Computer Science by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, Riverside, are expected to:

1. Have a good understanding of fundamental theoretical concepts of Computer Science:
   • computability
   • computational complexity
   and core areas of Computer Science:
   • computer architecture
   • software systems and software engineering
2. Conduct independent work involving both development and investigation.
3. Have a command of the English language that allows them to communicate their work effectively in writing.
4. Orally communicate technical concepts in their area of specialization, as well as in the topic of computer science at large.
5. Have the ability of earning their degree in a timely fashion, i.e., two years for full-time students.

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

The following assessment tools are used to evaluate the level to which the above learning outcomes have been achieved by a MS student:

1. Grades in core courses and overall GPA [outcome 1].
2. Annual evaluation of MS student progress by the Graduate Committee, with the help of a written report from each student’s faculty advisor indicating areas of excellence and areas needing improvement [outcome 1, 2].
3. MS project or MS thesis defense [outcome 2, 3, 4].
4. Tracking of internships [outcome 2, 3, 4].
5. Tracking of post-graduation career and positions held [outcome 2].
6. Tracking the number of students who graduated within the normative time of 2 years or less [outcome 5].
WASC Assessment Plan for PhD Program

Learning Outcomes

Students awarded the PhD in Computer Science by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, Riverside, are expected to:

1. Master fundamental theoretical concepts of Computer Science:
   - computability
   - computational complexity
   and core areas of Computer Science:
   - computer architecture
   - software systems and software engineering
2. Conduct independent research.
3. Have a command of the English language that allows them to communicate their research effectively in writing.
4. Orally communicate technical concepts in their area of specialization, as well as in the topic of computer science at large.
5. Acquire teaching skills needed to help them start their academic career (as most computer science PhD students join industry after obtaining their degree, this outcome is not equally relevant to each of them).

Assessment of Learning Outcomes

The following assessment tools are used to evaluate the level to which the above learning outcomes have been achieved by a PhD student:

1. Grades in core courses and overall GPA [outcome 1].
2. Annual evaluation of PhD student progress by the Graduate Committee, with the help of a written report from each student’s faculty advisor indicating areas of excellence and areas needing improvement [outcome 1, 2].
3. Course evaluations of Teaching Assistant performance (for those students who are assigned TA duties) [outcome 1, 3, 4, 5]
4. Oral examination [outcome 2, 3, 4].
5. Proposal defense examination [outcome 2, 3, 4].
6. PhD defense examination [outcome 2, 3, 4].
7. Tracking of internships [outcome 2, 3, 4].
8. Tracking of post-graduation career and positions held [outcome 2].