

# Master of Science in Computer Science and Information Systems (MS-CSIS)

## Exit Examination Process and Report Format

Revision date: May 16, 2011

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### 1. Overview of the MS-CSIS Exit Exam

This document defines the format of the Exit Exam Report for Master of Science in Computer Science and Information Systems at University of Michigan – Flint. The overall objective of the report is to assess the student’s understanding of the core concepts presented throughout the courses required for the degree, and demonstrate their ability to synthesize concepts from multiple courses.

Most of the required courses in the MS-CSIS program provide a reading list of journals and other scholarly articles related to that subject area. For the MS-CSIS Exit Exam Report, the student shall select as a minimum one paper each from two different courses, or substitute other suitable articles with the approval of the student’s advisor. The student shall then integrate the information from these papers with at least two additional technical papers found by the student into a coherent exposition which describes a technical problem related to these two topics. Further additional reference material consisting of other scholarly papers is strongly encouraged. These additional reference materials may be from any appropriately technical source (Note Wikipedia is *not* considered an appropriate technical source).

The student’s program advisor shall serve as the exam advisor. The Exit Exam Report shall be reviewed by the advisor and one other faculty member. The additional faculty member shall be jointly selected by the student and their advisor based on the proposed content of the Exit Exam paper, and the consent of the faculty member. The additional faculty member may be either an adjunct professor or a tenure track faculty member.

The Exit Exam Report shall be graded Pass/Fail. The specific rubrics for grading of the Exit Exam Report are provided in Section 3. Satisfactory completion of the exam is required for graduation and issuance of the M.S. degree. Students who fail to submit a satisfactory Exit Exam Report must modify and re-submit the report during the *following* semester. An additional edit and review may be allowed within the graduating semester at the discretion of the student’s advisor. Specific timing for submission of the Exit Exam Report is provided in Section 2.

## **2. Timing of the Exit Exam Report**

The Exit Exam Report shall be completed during the student's final semester of their expected graduation. The student must meet with their advisor *within the first two weeks of the beginning of the semester* within which the student is completing the exam. Failure to do so may result in the student not being able to graduate on time. Submission dates for the Exit Exam Report shall be as follows:

- **December 1** for **Fall** graduation
- **April 1** for **Winter** graduation
- **August 1** for **Summer** graduation

## **3. Assessment Rubrics for the Exit Exam Report**

The Exit Exam Report shall be assessed for its quality based on the following rubrics:

- Scope and novelty of the topic
- Depth of understanding of the technical concepts
- Organization of the document
- Clarity of writing

## **4. Format for the Exit Exam Paper**

The Exit Exam Report shall be presented in the form of a **20 page** (double spaced 12 point Times New Roman font) document to be reviewed by the student's academic advisor and one other appropriate faculty member. The outline for the document shall be as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION
2. BACKGROUND REVIEW
3. TECHNICAL DISCUSSION
4. CONCLUSIONS AND AREAS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE WORK
5. REFERENCES

## **5. Plagiarism and Academic Integrity**

As the exit exam is the student's opportunity to demonstrate to the MS-CSIS faculty their accumulated knowledge derived from the coursework in the program, academic integrity is of the utmost importance. Students must ensure that their exit exam consists of their own work and text from external references must be placed in quotation marks and properly cited to the originating work. Every exit exam will be processed in SafeAssign or a comparable online plagiarism detection tool. If any paper is found to contain significantly more than 20% directly copied text from outside sources, the advisor may fail the student on the exam. Depending on the severity of the plagiarism, the student may then be referred to the MS-CSIS graduate program director who in consultation with the faculty advisor will jointly determine if the student will be given another opportunity or if the student will be dismissed from the program.