

CPR Report Submitted!

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- 5 **Institution:** Columbus State University
- 6 **Review Status:** Non-triggered Review
- 7 **Degree level:** Masters
- 8 **Degree acronym:** MS
- 9 **Degree/Major:** MS in Applied Computer Science
- 10 **CIP Code:** 11010101
- 11 **College,
School/Division:** College of Science
- 12 **Department:** TSYS Department of Computer Science
- 13 **CPR Plan
followed:** Yes
- 14 **Future institutional
plans for program:** Expand and enhance
- 15 **Supplemental file:** CS MS Exec-Sum.doc
- 16 **File Type:** MS Word
- 17 **CPR Web site:** aa.colstate.edu/assess/cprtbl.htm

Columbus State University
TSYS Department of Computer Science
Master of Science in Applied Computer Science
Comprehensive Program Review
Executive Summary
November 2005

The **TSYS Department of Computer Science** offers a Master in Applied Computer Science degree program with concentrations in Software Development or Information Assurance; a Bachelor of Science degree program with concentrations in Computer Systems or Applied Computer Science; an Associate of Applied Science degree in Computer Science; a Minor in Computer Science; and a Certificate in Data Processing.

The TSYS Department of Computer Science offers the **Master of Science in Applied Computer Science**, with two concentrations: Software Development and Information Assurance. To allow students with different backgrounds to benefit from and be successful in the program, students may also design a program of study without a concentration.

In conjunction with the Mission Statement of Columbus State University, the Department of Computer Science will serve the educational needs of students of the university in the area of computing and the specific educational needs of the businesses and industries in our community. Computing will continue to play a larger part in the educational experience of each student at Columbus State University, and the Department of Computer Science is committed to playing a leadership role in this process. The department will also maintain programs for its majors that are current, viable, and applicable to the computing technologies and the technologies of the present and future. And because we serve the community in which we live, we will maintain contact with the computing entities of our region, and strive to provide the educational opportunities needed to keep those entities viable for the future.

The Department of Computer Science is committed to:

- educating students to think critically and creatively in a technological environment
- fostering the highest ideals of ethics, especially pertaining to electronic interaction
- providing the strongest and most current instruction in the areas of computing and technology
- serving to meet the educational needs of the community and region in the areas of computing and technology through collaboration, vision, and foresight
- striving to help Columbus State University meet its commitment to foster its centers of excellence, especially in the areas of science, mathematics, and technology education and regional economic and community development.

Conclusions about the Program's Quality and Productivity

An analysis and interpretation of the Self-Study completed by the faculty of the TSYS Department of Computer Science for the 2005 – 2006 Columbus State University Comprehensive Program Review has led to the following conclusions.

The TSYS Department of Computer Science provides a high quality program to its students.

- ❖ Quality indicators categorized at the levels of *Very Strong or Above Average* include:
 - quality of teaching,
 - quality of the curriculum,
 - quality of faculty,
 - quality of facilities,
 - quality of research and scholarship, and
 - quality of service.
- ❖ Quality indicators categorized at the level of *Satisfactory* include:
 - student selectivity, academic achievement, and satisfaction.
- ❖ No quality indicators were categorized at the level of *Below Average or Very Weak*.

Productivity in the Master of Science in Applied Computer Science is strong but can be improved.

- ❖ Productivity indicators categorized at the levels of *Very Strong or Above Average* include:
 - enrollment of students in the program,
 - annual degree production,
 - efficiency & clarity of the program's course requirements.
 - position of program's annual degree productivity among comparable USG Programs,
 - program's responsiveness to state needs and employer demand for program graduates, and
 - program's contribution to achieving CSU's Mission.
- ❖ Productivity indicators categorized at the levels of *Satisfactory* include:
 - program completion efficiency and graduation rate,
 - frequency and sequencing of course offerings required for program completion,
 - enrollment in the program's required courses,
 - diversity of program's majors and graduates, and
 - cost effectiveness of instructional delivery in the program's department.
- ❖ No productivity indicators were categorized at the level of *Below Average or Very Weak*.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Quality

The quality of the Master of Science in Computer Science is above average and quite strong in almost all areas. Efforts need to be made to improve the quality of students through recruitment and graduate assistantship opportunities for exceptional students.

The faculty need to continue enhance the quality of instruction. Curriculum changes scheduled for Fall 2006 are expected to significantly improve the quality of the M.S. program. Support for faculty professional development and grantsmanship needs to be increased.

List of Recommendations for Improving Program Productivity

Demand for the Master of Science in Applied Computer Science is still high although there is a perception that jobs for graduates from Computer Science are limited. Recruitment efforts need to be expanded, especially in areas that will attract more students from underrepresented groups. Faculty resources need to increase to enhance the on-campus offerings of graduate programs.

Conclusion about the Program's Viability at CSU

The faculty of the TSYS Department of Computer Science has concluded that the Master of Science in Applied Computer Science is viable. Support of the program should be increased to better serve the needs of the community.

Summary Recommendation and Supporting Rationale

The Master of Science in Applied Computer Science should be expanded. There has been an increased awareness and emphasis on information technology and computing in the Columbus region. The TSYS Department of Computer Science is increasingly being expected to take a leadership role in these activities and provide expertise in these areas. The department should intensify its efforts to improve the program's faculty, curriculum, and students. Resources should be applied to increase the quality of the Master of Science in Applied Computer Science programs and to increase enrollments to meet the needs of industry. More efforts need to be made to recruit and retain better students in the program.