DIRECTIONS: Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1–4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one-page in length. Forms and appropriate attachments should be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs, who will assign a Log Number to each proposal. Additional copies may be required at a later time.

DATE SUBMITTED_ January 20, 2004

COLLEGE/SCHOOL__ CMPS

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM__ Computer Science

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD__ DELETE__ CHANGE_X.

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Additional detail may be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

Change the course requirement for the PhD program. The proposed program requires seven courses, which must be at the 600 level or higher and must cover at least five of seven listed areas, and two additional graduate courses which must be approved by the student’s advisor as well as a one-credit How to Conduct Research course.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Attach additional material if needed.)

The Computer Science faculty wants to encourage students to get into research more quickly. The reduction in number of courses which a student must take before advancing to candidacy should help to move the student along more quickly. Restricting those courses to 600 level and above makes certain that there is no reduction in quality or level in coursework.

It has become apparent that students need some formal consideration of general principles of research before they get into their specific research areas. The How To Conduct Research course addresses this concern.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

1. Department Committee Chair
2. Department Chair
3. College/School PCC Chair
4. Dean
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
6. Chair, Senate PCC
7. Chair of Senate
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

DATE

2-24-04
2/24/04
2-24-04
3-8-04
3/11/04
3/16/04

VPAAP Rev. 2/2/98
March 11, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Stephen Halperin  
Dean, College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences

FROM: Victor Korenman  
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Modify the Curriculum for the Ph.D. Program in Computer Science  
(PCC Log No. 03034)

At its meeting on March 11, 2004, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses approved your proposal to modify the curriculum for the Ph.D. program in Computer Science. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.

The change is effective in the Fall semester, 2004. The College should ensure that this change is appropriately reflected in all university documentation, and that all advisors are informed.

VK:sfm  
Enclosure  

Cc: Dr. Mary Giles, University Senate  
Ms. Barbara Hope, Data Administration  
Ms. Trudy Lindsay, Graduate Studies  
Ms. Anne Turkos, Archives  
Dr. Scott Wolpert, College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences  
Dr. Linda Yokoi, Records & Registrations
I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSAL

This is a proposal for modifications to the approved curriculum leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Computer Science. The proposed changes are as follows:

Replace the current requirement that a student take ten courses at the 400 level or above from five areas before advancing to candidacy with one which requires:

- Seven 600-800 level CMSC courses in no more than five semesters from at least five areas before advancing to candidacy.

- Two additional 600-800 level courses, which must be approved by the student’s advisor.

- A one-credit course on How to Conduct Research.

II. RATIONALE

The Computer Science faculty feel that these changes put more emphasis on research and getting to research more quickly by having an early course which discusses doing research, reducing the number of courses which a student must take before advancing to candidacy, and having the two additional courses which give more opportunity to take courses which are specific to the student’s research area as a part of the course requirement.
III. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

The proposed change involves only the course requirements for the PhD; however, we have edited the graduate catalog statement a bit and included this change.

Current

http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/catalog/programs/CMSC.html

Computer Science CMSC - Graduate Catalog Fall 2003 - University of Maryland

Computer Science (CMSC)

Abstract
The Computer Science Department's graduate program is ranked among the top in the nation and in the top ten among public universities. Both M.S. and Ph.D degrees are offered, and almost all full-time students receive financial aid in the form of assistantships, fellowships, and grants. The Department has strong research programs in the following areas: artificial intelligence, computer systems and networking, database systems, programming languages, software engineering, scientific computing, algorithms and computation theory, computer vision, geometric computing, graphics, and human-computer interaction.

Admissions Information
Admission and degree requirements specific to the graduate programs in computer science are described on our website, http://www.cs.umd.edu/Grad/catalog.html. A strong background in mathematics and theoretical computer science is necessary. The general Graduate Record Examination is required, and the advanced Graduate Record Examination (GRE's) is recommended.

Application Deadlines
For the fall semester, applications must be received by January 15. For the spring semester, applications must be received by October 1. Only students attending University of Maryland for the fall semester may be consider for spring semester.

Application Requirements
- GRE General
- 3 Letters of Recommendation

Degree Requirements

Master of Science (M.S.)
The master's program offers two options:
- 24 hours of coursework taken from at least four different areas and completion of a thesis OR
- 30 hours of coursework taken from at least four different areas, comprehensive examinations in four areas, and completion of a scholarly paper.
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
The program includes

- 10 courses which can be made up in one of two ways:
  - Two courses in each of five areas, with one course in each area being at the 600-800 level.
  - Two courses in each of three areas, three courses in one area, one course in one area. In each area, at least one course must be at the 600-800 level. In the area with three courses, two must be at the 600-800 level.
- The student must have an A in at least seven of the ten courses and no less than a B in the remaining courses (A includes A- and A+, B includes B- and B+). A deficient grade can be made up by repeating the course, taking another course in the area, or switching to another area.
- A preliminary oral examination on a proposal for a dissertation and a reading list in three related areas
- The dissertation defense

Facilities and Special Resources
The Department of Computer Science is located in the A.V. Williams Building. The department's basic computing facility is provided by a network of several hundred UNIX, Windows, and Mac workstations. Graduate students generally have their own office space and at least one workstation per person. More specialized computing facilities include Unix-based open laboratory, Mac-based multimedia and robotics laboratory, Linux cluster, Alpha farm, SP-2, etc., some of which are operated by sister research units on campus.

Financial Assistance
Financial aid, in the form of teaching assistantships, research assistantships, and fellowships, is offered to qualified applicants. Almost all full-time students receive financial aid. Biennially, the Department offers the prestigious Jack and Rita G. Minker Graduate Fellowship. Women and minorities are encouraged to compete for the fellowships.

Contact Information
For further information on degree programs and graduate assistantships contact:
Graduate Office
1119 A.V. Williams Building
MD 20742
Telephone: (301) 405-2664
csgradof@cs.umd.edu
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Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
The program includes
• Seven 600-800 level CMSC courses must be completed before advancing to candidacy. These seven courses must:
  o be completed in no more than five semesters
  o include at least five different areas
  o include no more than two courses from any one area
  o have at least five grades of A and no grade lower than B-
• Two 600-800 level courses approved by the student’s advisor. The grades for these courses must be a B- or better.
• One course on how to conduct research
• A preliminary oral examination on a proposal for a dissertation and a reading list in three related areas
• The dissertation defense

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Related Programs and Campus Units
Systems Engineering