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College of Computing, Engineering, and Construction
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Masters Thesis Policy

In order to qualify for the Master of Science in Computer and Information Sciences, a student must complete at least 6 credits of the thesis course, CIS 6070, originating in a creditable Masters thesis. It is the purpose of this document to provide the policy framework within which students must operate to satisfy this particular requirement for the degree.

A student usually begins thesis considerations upon completing a sufficient number of 6000-level courses to identify one or more areas of personal interest and a potential thesis adviser for each such area of interest. Typically, the thesis adviser and thesis topic correspond to an instructor and material the student has encountered in a 6000-level course. Normally, a student takes 3 credits of thesis each of the

3. The thesis topic

When the thesis adviser and student have agreed upon a topic, the student, in consultation with the adviser, should prepare a prospectus which provides descriptive information regarding the topic and provides a (screened) list of references which will be reviewed by the student to increase background in the topic area. The prospectus will typically run 3 to 5 pages in length (excluding references); however, a given topic or adviser/committee combination may require greater detail for the prospectus to gain approval.

The thesis topic should reflect a research area in computer and information sciences. If the topic involves activity undertaken by the student in connection with place of employment, a strong case must be made regarding the research nature of the activity with the understanding that no restraint will be placed on the direction of the research or the dissemination of results. The student should also be aware that inventions or copyrightable material produced as part of thesis work may be considered the property of the University as well as the student, and that the University may share in any proceeds that derive from this material.

The student must present and defend the topic proposal to the thesis committee. The committee must unanimously agree that the topic is appropriate for a Master's thesis and that the prospectus adequately presents the scope of what the student is to accomplish.

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4. The thesis content

The thesis should represent a research effort on the part of the student. The outcome of the research effort may or may not reflect an original contribution to the field. The thesis should be presented to the satisfaction of the thesis committee. At least a portion of the thesis should be of sufficient quality to be presented to the University.