

Department of Computer and Information Sciences

Computer and Information Sciences Assessment Plan

Indiana University South Bend

1. Learning Goals

The primary goal of our program is to prepare our graduates to understand the field of computing, both as an academic discipline and as a profession within the larger context of society. We try to achieve this goal in several ways. We provide a broad and coherent coverage of the discipline. We expose our students to the theory underlying the field. We expose our students to the ethical and societal issues associated with computers. We prepare our students to apply their knowledge to specific computing problems and to produce solutions, both independently and as members of teams. We structure the program in such a way that it supports and is supported by the educational goals of the University and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Every student who graduates with a B.S. in computer science is expected to have developed the following skills:

- 1) Written and verbal communication skills
- 2) Analytical and quantitative skills
- 3) Micro and Macro level problem solving skills
- 4) Understanding of the societal and ethical issues as they relate to computing professionals
- 5) Ability to work independently and as part of a team

2. Assessment Measures

To properly assess the above learning goals, we employ the following Direct and Indirect measures:

a. Direct measures

- Review of the understanding of ethical and societal issues as they relate to computing professionals, demonstrated in I202 (Social Informatics). (To be implemented in the future)
- Review of junior-level work by the faculty member teaching the junior capstone course (C243 Data Structures, C308, Systems Analysis and Design)
- Review of senior-level work by the faculty member teaching the senior capstone courses (C435, Operating Systems)

b. Indirect measures

- Academic advising
- Senior exit survey
- Exit Interview
- Alumni survey
- Employment Survey (Job placement rates)

Learning Goals	Ethical and societal issues (I202)	Junior Capstone (C243, C308)	Senior Capstone (C435)	Academic Advising	Exit Interview	Alumni Survey	Employer Survey
1) Written and Verbal Communication skills	DM	DM	DM	IM	IM	IM	IM
2) Analytical and quantitative skills.		DM			IM		IM
3) Micro and Macro level problem solving skills.		DM	DM	IM	IM	IM	IM
4) Understanding of the societal and ethical issues as they relate to computing professionals.	DM			IM	IM	IM	IM
5) Ability to work independently and as part of a team.		DM	DM	IM	IM	IM	IM

DM: Direct assessment of learning goals
 IM: Indirect assessment of learning goals

3. Faculty curriculum meeting to discuss data and identify action items

The Department of Computer and Information Sciences meets several times during the academic year and discusses way to fine tune our program based on feedback from various assessment instruments discussed above. Changes to the department's degree programs, including curriculum and scheduling of courses, are considered in light of the accumulated assessment data. Further, the assessment plan itself is discussed and, if necessary, revised at these meeting.

4. Participation

All full-time members of the department have the opportunity to participate in the analysis and discussion of assessment data, as well as the revision of the assessment plan. Student surveys are structured in such a way that students are not just objects of assessment but are given the opportunity to suggest changes to the curriculum or degree programs. As noted above, alumni as well as current students are involved in the assessment process. Employers are also a critical stakeholder and are surveyed periodically.

V. Records

The Department will maintain an archive of student artifacts, surveys, and any other assessment data collected copies of all assessment reports and copies of its assessment plan on file in the department office. Copies of the assessment plan and reports will be placed on the departmental web page (http://www.cs.iusb.edu/assessment_reports.html) in a downloadable electronic format.