

## Assessment Summary: Ph.D. in Computer Science

Assessment data have been collected each year according to the Assessment Plan and the results have been reviewed by the Graduate Studies Committee and distributed to the CIS faculty, and compared with the previous results. The preliminary examination was changed to assess both the breadth of knowledge and ability to conduct research. In the previous version of preliminary exams, the students had to select a set of subject areas and were tested for in-depth knowledge in those areas. This was changed to allow testing for breadth of knowledge in all basic areas of computer science (rather than selected areas). It was also decided to test knowledge that a student would acquire by taking an undergraduate course in that area. The Research Proficiency exam was introduced to further test the ability of a student to survey and conduct research. The student was assigned an area which the student must survey and identify open problems. The committee would then assign a specific problem for which the student must propose potential solutions. We also need to further evaluate the impact of the changes to the Preliminary examination structure on the student preparation and graduation and retention rates. One of the missing pieces of data in the current assessment plan is the lack of feedback from the graduate students. We plan to collect more data based in the form of student feedback with respect to the student learning outcomes.