

Narrative Report

PART 1 – Learning Outcomes

The MSCS program at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) provides high-quality and comprehensive education and training in computer science to students from the state, region, and nation. The program has demonstrated continuous success in recruiting, retention, progression, and graduation.

The program clearly identifies and articulates:

- program mission, vision, and goal statements
- program and student learning outcomes that are appropriate for the program level (graduate) and for UTC

The program, through its collaboration with other units of the university and industry and government partners, has provided opportunities and services to support student success:

- Student opportunities for research/involvement in faculty research
- Student opportunities for practical/field experiences
- Student placement in the workforce related to the field of computing

The department has established practices to make use of evaluation information and/or information obtained from student, alumni, and employer surveys and/or data from institutional research to strengthen and improve the program.

The program aligns with the institution's mission. The program demonstrates strength in faculty, curriculum and student support for continuing growth to meet the workforce development needs of the region.

PART 2 – Curriculum

The curriculum content and organization of the program are up to date and properly reflect the current state of graduate level computer science education and training. They are reviewed regularly, and the results are used for curricular improvement.

The program has developed a process to ensure courses are offered regularly and that students can make timely progress towards their degree. But challenges remain to offer a wide range of advanced electives that meet the diverse needs of students with a broader range of career goals. Successful hiring of additional CS faculty will help address this challenge in addition to the current effort in planning and advising.

PART 3 – Student Experience

The program has sustained a healthy enrollment that allows an appropriate group of peers as they participate in the program. Students enjoyed and valued the fast responses from the faculty, frequent interactions with the program director, and easy access to appropriate academic support services. The program also provides students with various professional development and enrichment opportunities, and diverse perspectives and experiences through curricular and extracurricular activities. Students are making full use of these opportunities to enhance their learning.

PART 4 – Graduate Faculty Quality

The program faculty meet the high standards set by the program and expected SACSCOC guidelines for credentials. The faculty actively engages in professional development that enhances their teaching, scholarship and services. The faculty are actively involved in course/curriculum innovation. Many of them have active externally funded research programs with graduate student participation and are actively engaged in initiatives supporting student success.

PART 5 – Learning Resources

Students and faculty of the program have access to learning and information resources that are appropriate to support teaching and learning. The program provides adequate materials and support staff to encourage research and publication.

PART 6 – Support

The MSCS program has a history of healthy enrollment and/or graduation rates sufficient to sustain high quality and cost-effectiveness. The program's strength in faculty, curriculum and student support positions itself for continuing growth to meet the workforce development needs of the region. Continuing investment to grow its capacity and capabilities in faculty, staff and facilities will assure the program's continuous competitiveness and success as a premier MSCS program in the region.

PART 7 – Summary Recommendations

Overall, MSCS program at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC) is an excellent graduate program that provides high-quality and comprehensive education and training in the field of computing to students from the state, region, and nation. The program, with its strong and demonstrated record of success in recruiting, retention, progression, and graduation, is well positioned to serve the local, state, regional, and national needs.