Computer Science
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Degree Program(s) Assessed	Assessment Methods	Number of Individuals Assessed
BS Computer Science	Graduating Senior Survey Alumni Survey Internship Employer Evaluations Regional Competitions	27 responses 5 responses 7 responses 6 students/2 teams
MS Computer Science	Thesis Graduate Student Satisfaction Survey	40 students 32 responses
PhD Computer Science	Dissertation Presentation National Research Presentation	1 student 1 student

Analysis and Findings

- 27 Students returned the Graduating Senior Survey. According to their rating, the strengths of the Computer Science Department are Advising, Availability of instructors, Quality of instruction and computing resources. Weaknesses appeared to be a lack of teaching assistants and not enough experience with programming for current students.

- 68 Recent graduates were asked to participate in an online survey as well. 5 Alumni returned the survey. 100% of respondents were working in the computer science field. All reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their academic experience at Oklahoma State University and with the Computer Science degree preparation. Strengths, as reported by respondents, were in the quality of the programming classes and relevant coursework. The respondents suggested additional coursework in software applications.

- 6 students participated in an internship experience in computer science. Students worked in a variety of settings, including industry, higher education, health care and the Cherokee Nation. Employers were asked to evaluate the students on technical skills, business skills, communication skills, and productivity. 100% of the employers rated the students' overall ability as being in the top 5% in comparison to others at the same level of training. 5 of the six gave their student's a superior ranking, meaning that they considered the student to be in the top 1-2%. Strengths indicated in the evaluations were technical knowledge, quality of work, responsibility, and adaptability. The employers indicated no weaknesses on the evaluation.

- Students were also asked to evaluate their own performance in the internship, and to evaluate coursework that was particularly beneficial to their work assignment. Students indicated that programming courses, networking courses, and business communication were all courses that prepared them for their work assignment. Students listed areas that could be improved for them as taking more pure programming courses, and to improve their own communication skills. One student felt that knowledge of specific software programs could also have helped with his own assignment.

- 34 students tried out for the programming team during a departmental contest. 6 students were chosen for two teams that participated in the ACM Regional contest. There were 91 teams in the Regional contest from all the states and institutions in the Southwest Region. One of OSU's teams finished 9th, solving 7 of 8 problems, and the other team finished 40th, solving 3 problems.

- Students are required to take both a Social Issues class, which emphasizes the moral and ethical responsibility of a computing professional, and a Technical Writing class, which emphasizes business communication and writing skills. These are in addition to the more technical courses, which are required by the degree.

- 40 students successfully defended a thesis and received the MS degree in Computer Science. One student successfully defended a dissertation and received a PhD in Computer Science.

- One student was also chosen to present a research paper at a national conference.

- 32 students responded to the graduate student satisfaction survey in 2002. 75% of those responding were either satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their overall experience as a graduate student at OSU. 75% also indicated that they felt their academic experience was preparing them for a career in the field of computer science. 62.5% were satisfied with the overall quality of the academic program. Students indicated that they would like more career services and more opportunities and funding for graduate research and for graduate assistantships.

Uses of Assessment Results

- As a result of the graduating senior survey and the alumni survey, the department will consider changes in the social issues class to include a career component. This section would emphasize job search strategies, and office procedure and management techniques.

- Faculty will continue to assess and review curriculum, student needs, and make program revisions based on their needs assessment.

- Computer Science continues to hire new faculty as funds permit, in order to address the need for more course offerings in a semester.