**The Computer Science MS Comprehensive Exam Process**

Beginning in September 2011, each offering of a Core CS course includes a portion of the MS comprehensive exam as part of its course offering. Typically this is the final exam for the class, but it may differ in format from course to course. For example, it could instead be a weighted average of the midterm(s) and the final exam, at the discretion of the instructor. The exam will be comprehensive in nature, covering most of the content of the course. The instructor will determine the threshold for passing the MS Comprehensive Exam for that course offering.

Students enrolled in a Core CS course offering may choose either to attempt or to not attempt the MS Comprehensive Exam for that course and must inform the course instructor of their choice by the instructor-specified deadline. If a student takes a course but does not pass the MS Comprehensive Exam, that student can take the exam in a subsequent offering without re-enrolling in the course. In order to retry the Exam, such a student must sign up with the instructor of that course offering before the end of the second week of the quarter. Note that if you plan to take the Comprehensive Exam in a Core course, your first attempt at the exam \*must\* be made in conjunction with your taking of the course. (I.e., taking the Core course will count as your first attempt at the Comprehensive Exam for that course, so not taking it with the Comprehensive Option will actually be counted as a failed first attempt if you later decide to pursue that area's exam.)

At the end of the quarter, in addition to a grade for the course, the instructor of a Core CS class will report the results of the Comprehensive Exam to the Student Affairs Office for all of the students in the class who attempted the Exam (as well as for any students who took the Exam but were not enrolled in the class).

Note that the MS Comprehensive Exams in Core courses will \*only\* be offered in conjunction with Core course offerings. Separate exams have been phased out and are no longer an option.

Each student must pass the Comprehensive Exam for at least three Core courses, with no more than one coming from each Core category. A Comprehensive Exam for a particular course may not be attempted more than twice. The maximum number of Comprehensive Exams that may be attempted, including re-tries, is eight. Again, note that re-tries will only be offered in quarters when the course is being taught. (A student can always opt to change Core course areas if they urgently need a test on a tighter schedule than that.)