

**Analysis and Use of Evidence of Student Learning
Mathematical, Information and Computer Science Programs
2011-12 Academic Year**

In the 2011-12 academic year the Mathematical, Information and Computer Sciences Department expanded its assessment efforts to include some formative assessment as well as measuring additional learning outcomes. This expansion is part of the department's multi-year assessment plan which was revised after Program Review.

The department is home to three majors:

- Computer Science
- Computer Information Systems
- Mathematics

However, there is a fair amount of overlap between the three majors particularly in the first two years of coursework. The department takes a collective approach to developing and assessing the learning outcomes in all three programs.

In the pages that follow, the evidence of student learning data is interleaved with a brief commentary about the data and the how the department has made use of the data. This includes data gathered from signature assignments in the following classes:

- CSC254 Data Structures
- CSC314 Operating Systems
- ISS414 Database Management
- MTH242 Number Theory with Proofs
- MTH382 Mathematical Statistics
- CSC481/ISS481/MTH481 Senior Seminar

The senior seminar forms the core of our assessment efforts and that is where we have the richest data.

The department collectively discusses and develops signature assignments and rubrics. We use a system of two-reader agreement for all items scored with a rubric. The one exception is the students' senior oral presentation which is graded by a jury comprised of all the faculty in our department.

Many of the actions resulting from our use of assessment can be seen in the APC Proposals and the Program Review Part I and Part II documents.

**CSC254 Longitudinal Data
Spring 2012**

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to write correct and robust software (CS and CIS)

Students will be able to use technology to solve problems (MTH)

	Percentage of Class at 2.5 or Higher
	2012
Compilation	100%
Runtime Correctness	57%
Problem Solving	93%

Scale Used:

Unsatisfactory	1
Low Satisfactory	2
High Satisfactory	3
Outstanding	4

Criteria for Success: 80% of the class will be at or above 2.5 in each of the three areas

CSC254 Data Structures Commentary

This is a computer programming course that is required of all three majors in department (Computer Science, Computer Information Systems and Mathematics). This was the first year in which we assessed a signature assignment in the course. The assignment involved writing a computer program.

The students met our criteria for success in two of the three areas. In department's annual the late summer planning and assessment meeting, we will have further conversations about the fact that students did not succeed in the area of runtime correctness on this assignment. We need to evaluate the assignment and also discuss if any curricular changes might be necessary. With only a single year sampled, it is too soon to draw significant conclusions. The course will be taught and assessed again in the Fall of 2012.

**CSC314 Longitudinal Data
Spring 2012**

Learning Outcome: Students will analyze the interaction between hardware and software.

	Percentage of Class at 7 or Higher
	2012
Hardware/software interaction understanding	85%

Scale Used:

System based on a maximum of 10 points.

Unsatisfactory	6 or below
Low Satisfactory	7
High Satisfactory	8
Outstanding	9 or 10

Criteria for Success: 80% of the class will score 7 or more points (satisfactory or higher)

CSC314 Operating Systems Commentary

This course in operating systems is required of all Computer Science and Computer Information Systems majors. This was the first year that we used a signature assignment to assess the students' understanding of the interaction between hardware and software. The students met our criteria for success. The course will be taught and assessed again in the Spring of 2013.

**ISS414 Longitudinal Data on Data Base Queries
Spring 2012**

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to apply their knowledge to solve technical problems.

Students will use information management as a tool to support decision making in business environments.

	Percentage of Class at 2.5 or Higher
	2012
Relevant Information Chosen	100%
Query Correctness	25%

Scale Used:

Unsatisfactory	1
Low Satisfactory	2
High Satisfactory	3
Outstanding	4

Criteria for Success: 80% of the class will be at or above 2.5 in each of the four areas

Comments:

The 2012 class was relatively small so the standard deviation is large on any assessment.
75% of the class scored above a 2.3 on query correctness.

ISS414 Database Systems Commentary

This is a course in data bases that is required of all Computer Science and Information Systems majors. This is the first year that we have used this particular signature assignment. It is also the first year that we have assessed student learning outcomes based on an assignment from this course.

All of the small group of students did a good job in selecting the relevant information needed to answer the question posed in the signature assignment. Only 25% of the students met our benchmark (score of 2.5 out of 4) for query correctness. However, 75% of the students exceeded the score of 2.3 out of 4.

In department's annual the late summer planning and assessment meeting, we will have further conversations about the fact that students did not succeed in meeting our target for the correctness of the data base query. We need to evaluate the assignment an also discuss if any curricular changes might be necessary. With only a single year sampled, it is too soon to draw significant conclusions. The course will be taught and assessed again in the Spring of 2014 (it is an alternating year course).

MTH242 Longitudinal Data
Spring 2012

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to write proofs.

	Percentage of Class at 2.5 or Higher	
	2011	2012
Statement of Problem	100%	100%
Logic	100%	88%
Symbolism	100%	100%
Justification	86%	75%

Scale Used:

Unsatisfactory	1
Low Satisfactory	2
High Satisfactory	3
Outstanding	4

Criteria for Success: 80% of the class will be at or above 2.5 in each of the four areas

MTH242 Number Theory with Proofs Commentary

All students majoring in Mathematics are required to take this course in the basics of proof writing. Students typically take this course in their sophomore year so we are using this as a formative assessment. In the future we will be assessing their proof writing ability near the end of their academic career.

The students are the weakest in the area of providing justification for individual steps in their proofs. This is to be expected at this point in their development as mathematicians. In 2011-12 75% of the students achieved a score of 2.5 or higher and our criteria for success is 80% of the students at that level. However given the small sample size, this small variation is not significant. The class will next be taught in the Spring of 2013.

MTH382
Spring 2012

Learning Outcome: Students will be able to use technology to solve problems.

	Percentage of students at 2.5 or higher
	Spring 2012
Students will be able to use technology to solve problems	100%

Scale Used:

Unsatisfactory	1
Low Satisfactory	2
High Satisfactory	3
Outstanding	4

Criteria for Success: 80% of the class will be at or above 2.5 in each of the areas assessed.

Comments:

This project involved using Excel to analyze some data.

MTH382 Mathematical Statistics Commentary

This is a required course for all Mathematics majors. It is fairly common to have a number of mathematics minors in the class as well. This is the first year that we have used this signature assignment to assess students' ability to use technology (in this case Excel) to solve problems.

The students all met our expectations for their capacity to use Excel. The next time that this class will be taught is the Spring of 2013.

**MICS Oral Presentation and Written Report Data
Senior Seminar Updated Spring 2012**

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to speak about their work with precision, clarity and organization.

Students will be able to write about their work with precision, clarity and organization.

Oral Presentation	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Background	92%	80%	94%	94%	88%	100%	95%	100%
Organization	92%	80%	94%	94%	94%	100%	85%	100%
Oral presentation skills (2010)						100%	90%	100%
Presentation Tools	83%	80%	94%	88%	94%	100%	100%	100%
Ability to field questions	92%	80%	94%	81%	100%	100%	100%	83%

Written Report	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Bibliography and support	82%	60%	88%	69%	75%	88%	55%	93%
Organization	91%	87%	94%	100%	88%	63%	65%	93%
Grammar and Spelling	91%	73%	88%	94%	75%	81%	60%	79%
Depth of Information	82%	60%	88%	81%	88%	88%	50%	93%
Clarity of Writing	82%	80%	94%	94%	69%	81%	70%	79%

Criteria for Success: 80% of the students will earn a 2.5 or higher (on a scale of 1-4) in each element.

Comments:

Changes over time:

Over time we have increased our standards and expanded the rubric to increase clarity for students and to push them to speak and write at a professional level. Looking at the scores, it is possible to see the times when alterations have been made:

2008-09 Standards tightened

2009-10 Rubric expanded to include more detailed instruction

2010-11 Standards in writing tightened

2011-12 Change in accountability for writing showing improvement in the final product.

ETS MFT Longitudinal Summary 2011-12

Score of 200 is possible

Note that the data reads right to left. This is for ease of department review of most recent data.

CS Learning Outcomes: Graduates will have a coherent and broad based knowledge of their discipline and graduates will be prepared for careers that use computer science in business, industry, government and the non-profit sector and will be prepared for graduate study in fields related to computer science.
 Students will use the theory of algorithms and computation to solve problems.
 Students will analyze the interaction between software and hardware.

Criteria for Success: ETS CS Exam: 50% of the students will achieve above the 50th percentile in the exam.
 ETS CS Exam Structures and Algorithms Subscore: The department subscore will be at the 65th percentile or higher.
 ETS CS Exam Computer Organization, Architecture and Operating Systems Subscore: The department subscore will be at the 65th percentile or higher.

	2011-12		2010-11		2009-10		2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
Computer Science	Score	Percentile																		
Department Average	pending	pending	156.3	70	153.5	65	162.8	90	167.3	95	166.3	95	158.6	80	152.3	55	163.7	85	159.5	83
Percent of Students Above 50th Percentile	pending	pending		71%		60%		100%		100%		100%		75%		100%		83%		75%
Number of Students Taking the Test	pending	pending		7		5		4		3		3		8		3		6		8

	2011-12		2010-11		2009-10		2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
Assessment Indicator Scores:	Score	Percentile																		
Programming Fundamentals	pending	pending	64	65	65	70	73	95	68	85	73	85*	*	*	*	*	66.7	85	65.4	83
Computer Org/Arch/Oper Sys	pending	pending	39	65	49	90	54	95	52	44	52	90*	*	*	*	*	39.2	75	40.9	83
Structures and Algorithms	pending	pending	56	90	49	70	50	70	77	95	59	90*	*	*	*	*	65.7	95	42.9	54

* Sample size too small to be given indicator scores.
 ETS changed the CS exam in 2011-12. Results will not be available until August or September of 2012.

CIS Learning Outcomes: Graduates will have a coherent and broad based knowledge of their discipline and graduates will be prepared for careers that use computer information systems in business, industry, government and the non-profit sector and will be prepared for graduate study in fields related to computer information systems.

Criteria for Success: ETS CS Exam: 50% of the students will achieve above the 25th percentile on the exam (this low number is due to the fact that ETS does not have a CIS exam so the CS exam is a proxy).

	2011-12		2010-11		2009-10		2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
Computer Information Systems	Score	Percentile	Score	Percentile	Score	Percentile														
Department Average	pending	pending	140.8	20	138.8	15	137.8	10	120.0	1	133.75	15	142.3	20	122	1	145.8333	35	141.8	38
Percent of Students Above 25th Percentile	pending	pending		83%		20%		50%		0%		25%		100%		0%		83%		67%
Number of Students Taking the Test	pending	pending		6		5		4		1		4		3		1		6		6

	2011-12		2010-11		2009-10		2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
Assessment Indicator Scores:	Score	Percentile																		
Programming Fundamentals	pending	pending	53	30	44	15	52	30	18	1	39	10	55.8	55*	*	*	42.7	20	40.8	33
Computer Org/Arch/Oper Sys	pending	pending	25	10	27	15	19	1	13	1	30	35	37.1	65*	*	*	25	15	26.3	33
Structures and Algorithms	pending	pending	35	15	31	10	33	15	17	1	21	1	45.4	45*	*	*	39	35	32.2	33

* Sample size too small to be given indicator scores.
 Note in 2007-08 and 2004-05 only one Information Systems student took the test.
 ETS changed the CS exam in 2011-12. Results will not be available until August or September.

Math Learning Outcomes:

Graduates will have a coherent and broad based knowledge of their discipline and graduates will be prepared for careers that use mathematics in business, industry, government and the non-profit sector and will be prepared for graduate study in fields related to mathematics and will be prepared for teaching mathematics and computer science at the secondary level.
 Students will be able to demonstrate a facility with analytical concepts.
 Students will be able to demonstrate a facility with algebraic concepts.
 Students will be able to use their mathematical knowledge to solve problems.

Criteria for Success:

ETS Mathematics Exam: 50% of the students will achieve above the 50th percentile in the exam.
 ETS Mathematics Exam Calculus Subscore: The department subscore will be at the 65th percentile or higher.
 ETS Mathematics Exam Algebra Subscore: The department subscore will be at the 65th percentile or higher.
 ETS Mathematics Exam Applied Subscore: The department subscore will be at the 65th percentile or higher.

	2011-12		2010-11		2009-10		2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
	Score	Percentile																		
Mathematics																				
Department Average	172.6	96	163.3	80	160.3	70	162.3	75	161.3	75	166.5	85	173.4	90	157.6	65	155.3	55	169	93
Percent of Students Above 50th Percentile		80%		71%		50%		67%		67%		75%		80%		50%		50%		100%
Number of Students Taking the Test		5		7		6		12		6		8		5		8		6		8

	2011-12		2010-11		2009-10		2008-09		2007-08		2006-07		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
	Score	Percentile																		
Assessment Indicator Scores:																				
Calculus	59	99	39	70	46	90	45	90	41	80	47	90	41.2	75	42.5	80	33.3	40	45.9	91
Algebra	45	85	49	90	42	65	45	80	45	80	46	80	56	95	35	25	50	75	56.6	90
Routine	54	98	45	85	42	75	43	75	41	70	48	90	52.2	90	42.6	75	51.3	65	62.6	95
Non-routine	43	99	26	35	25	20	25	25	32	75	30	70	40	95	22.8	15	21	10	32.5	92
Applied	48	96	40	70	43	85	48	95	38	60	40	75	40	75	33.8	45	46.2	70	49.9	84

Note the ETS changed the Mathematics test in 2004-05

CSC481/ISS481/MTH481 Senior Seminar Commentary

Nearly a decade ago our department developed its Senior Seminar. All the seniors in our department are part of a single class. In that class the students work on practical skills (resume writing and interviewing techniques), discuss vocation and engage in three things that are assessed for program purposes:

- Develop an oral presentation that (generally) discusses the student's cumulative experience (internship, year-long service learning project, year-long research project)
- Write a paper that provides further expansion on their oral presentation
- Take the ETS Major Field test in Computer Science (Computer Science and Computer Information Systems majors) or Mathematics (Mathematics majors). For students who are double majoring in our department we allow them to choose with of the two exams to take.

It is important to note that each student is assigned a faculty mentor with whom to work in preparing their oral and written presentation. This mentor provides a level of accountability and a sounding board but does not engage in high levels of editing of the student's work before the presentation.

Oral and Written Presentation Data:

Reviewing the longitudinal data from both the oral and written presentations, it is possible to see the department's learning process about how to best assess these two abilities in our students. Over the years we have modified the rubrics, provided greater detail and accountability for the students, and tightened the standards. This can be seen in the variation in the data. For example we tightened the standards in the academic year 2008-09 and the corresponding drop in student results can be seen.

The Senior Seminar is in the spring and each fall the department reviews the oral and written presentation data from the previous years and discusses needed adjustments in the syllabus and in our interactions with students. Our students need to become better writers and each year we consider additional ways to hone their writing skills in the senior seminar as well as in earlier classes. For example, students are now being exposed to the writing and speaking rubrics in other classes in their majors where they need to write papers or do presentations (e.g. the History of Mathematics).

ETS Major Field Tests

The ETS exam has provided our department with helpful information that has led to a number of curricular changes over time. We look at the data annually which has led to small modifications (changes in pedagogy or assignments) as well as larger curricular modifications (addition or alteration of classes).

Computer Science:

The ETS has changed the Computer Science exam so we will not have results until August or September of 2012. We have made curricular changes in the last few years to update our department coursework to align with new standards from the Association of Computing Machinery as well as to respond to assessment data. This has included increasing students exposure to data bases and information security. It is too soon to see if these changes will impact ETS scores. See the Program Review Parts I and II and recent APC Proposals to see the curricular changes.

Computer Information Systems:

The ETS has changed the Computer Science exam so we will not have results until August or September of 2012. We have made curricular changes in the last few years to update our department coursework to align with new standards from the Association of Computing Machinery as well as to respond to assessment data. As part of this process we did a compute overhaul in the curriculum in this area. It has formerly been an Information Systems major but the demand in our community is for Computer Information Systems. To that end we expanded the amount of computer science fundamentals that these students must study. It is too soon to see if these changes will impact ETS scores, however we expect with the expanded computer science material in the curriculum these majors should show overall improvement in their ETS scores. The class of 2013 will be the first class that could not earn a degree under the old Information Systems. See the Program Review Parts I and II and recent APC Proposals to see the curricular changes.

Mathematics:

The ETS exam has provided our department with helpful information that has led to a number of curricular changes over time. We look at the data annually which has led to small modifications (changes in pedagogy or assignments) as well as larger curricular modifications (addition or alteration of classes). In our recent Program Review we investigated the variability of the scores on the “non-routine” problems and learned that this category is a rotating collection of problems, some of them from topics not taught in our curriculum. We did however determine that we needed to do some work to strengthen our curriculum in the area of applied mathematics. This has resulted in increasing the number of required units of linear algebra and reconfiguring our applied mathematics class to become a class in differential equations and a class in modeling both of them using a modeling paradigm. It is too early to tell if these changes have achieved our intended outcomes, but the students have been positive about the curricular rearrangement. See the Program Review Part I and Part II for further details. See also the APC Proposals from the last several years to see curricular changes.