

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM REVIEW 2002-2003
UNIVERSITY PROGRAM REVIEW COUNCIL'S EVALUATION
for the

M.S. in Applied Computer Science for Experienced Professionals

GRADUATE PROGRAM

I. COUNCIL'S GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The program is one of few in the country that has these three distinct characteristics: premium pricing, cohort groups and distance-learning/teaching. The quality of the program is strong. Given the newness of the program, the fact only 18 students were enrolled in the first cohort group, and the difficulty of identifying faculty who are committed to this program, the overall productivity rating is satisfactory. Should the program continue to grow as it is designed, premium pricing will contribute to Computer Science resources in the department. Given the program is new, the reviewers lowered the ratings on some indicators because there is not enough evidence at this time to support higher ratings.

<u>Focus of Evaluation</u>	<u>Self-Study Eval</u>	<u>Council's Eval</u>
----------------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

QUALITY INDICATORS

II. Summary of Program's Overall Quality Council's Observations:	Strong	Strong
---	---------------	---------------

Premium pricing makes this program unique and may provide a strong resource flow for the department. Faculty are well qualified. Though a new program, the program has conducted early assessments which have guided fine-tuning procedures.

IIA. Curricular Adherence to Quality/Accreditation Standards Council's Observations:	Strong	Weak
---	---------------	-------------

**There are no formal accreditation standards.
It is difficult, perhaps impossible, to compare this program and traditional classroom models.**

IIB. Quality of Faculty Supporting the Program Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Strong
---	--------------------	---------------

Insufficient data to warrant a very strong rating.

IIC. Quality of Facilities, Equipment, Learning Resources, And Placements Council's Observations:	Satisfactory	Very Strong
---	---------------------	--------------------

The program is housed in the Clendenin Computer Science Building. The university initially

invested in the distance-learning technology. Students receive a microprocessor, digital prototyping systems, and other components for use at home.

IID. Quality of KSU's Annual Financial Investment Council's Observations: **Satisfactory Satisfactory**

The program does utilize premium pricing. Six faculty are assigned to the program. Eighteen students were in the first cohort. It is difficult to ascertain costs because it's unclear what other roles faculty assume.

IIIE. Use of Advanced Technology for Program Delivery and Support Council's Observations: **Very Strong Very Strong**

Nature of the program lends itself to the use of advanced technology.

IIIF. Quality of Program Advising, Enrollment Management & Student Services Council's Observations: **Very Strong Satisfactory**

The MSACS Director and Program Specialist registers students for courses. No evidence is provided that speaks directly to students in this program, that is, how they are advised, how enrollment is managed. No evidence is provided that speaks to other student services. The self-study speaks of "premium" service to students; however, it fails to define this service or explain how this service is superior to that received by the traditional student.

IIIG. Program Graduates' Competitive Advantages Council's Observations: **Very Strong Strong**

The program is too new to warrant a higher rating. Are students going through a distance/learning model more attractive in the marketplace than those going through a traditional program? Has the need for workers in this field increased/declined? As the program grows, comparisons of that kind might be helpful.

IIIH. Faculty's & Program's Diversity & Global Perspective Council's Observations: **Strong Satisfactory**

25% percent of students are Asian, 5% are Black and 10% are Female. No female faculty are teaching in this program. The self-study does not address the curriculum very well.

III. Endowments, Scholarships, Gifts, Grants, and Fees Council's Observations: **Strong Strong**

\$1 million gift from the Clendenin family

**\$100,000 gift from GoldKist Inc.
Premium Tuition**

IIIJ.	Program's Honors, Awards & Recognition Council's Observations:	Satisfactory	Weak
-------	---	---------------------	-------------

New program

IIK.	Honors of Program's Students, Graduates & Faculty Council's Observations:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
------	--	---------------------	---------------------

New program. Faculty recognition exists; however, no student recognition thus far.

IIIL.	Success of Program's Graduates Council's Observations:	Unrated	Not rated
-------	---	----------------	------------------

No graduates thus far.

IIIM.	Stakeholder Satisfaction with Program Council's Observations:	Strong	Satisfactory
-------	--	---------------	---------------------

A student survey indicates a high level of satisfaction. However more data is needed. As the program matures, more assessment tools should be utilized.

IIIN.	Selectivity & Achievement of Students Council's Observations:	Satisfactory	Weak
-------	--	---------------------	-------------

No evidence is given to indicate how students are selected for the program. Admission criteria are not specified other than a 2.8 GPA. No data are provided on student achievement. The latter speaks to the newness of the program.

IIO.	Program's Responsiveness to Assessment, Change & Improvement Council's Observations:	Strong	Strong
------	--	---------------	---------------

The program has an advisory board that meets on a regular basis. The department administers surveys to students. Within the last two years, the program has been revised based on feedback.

PRODUCTIVITY INDICATORS

III.	Summary of Program's Overall Productivity Council's Observations:	New program—strong and improving	Satisfactory
------	--	---	---------------------

It's difficult to rate the productivity of this program because it's new. Although faculty are well qualified, evidence does not detail their productivity. Six faculty contribute to this program; however, only 18 students were enrolled in the fall. Evidence provided that details credit hours speaks to the entire CSIS Department. This is a recurring issue across campus. Designed to hold 25 students per cohort, 18 were enrolled in the fall. Marketing plans need to be put in place to reach the maximum goal, and plans should be considered to add additional cohorts if this program proves its viability. The self study addresses the effects of premium pricing.

IIIA.	Enrollment of Graduate Students in Program Council's Observations:	Strong	Satisfactory
-------	---	---------------	---------------------

Eighteen students were enrolled in the fall.

IIIB.	Program's Annual Degree Completions Council's Observations:	New program	Not rated
-------	--	--------------------	------------------

New program

IIIC.	Graduation Rate & Program Completion Efficiency Council's Observations:	Unable to assess	Not rated
-------	--	-------------------------	------------------

New program

IIID.	Efficiency & Clarity of Curricular Design Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Strong
-------	--	--------------------	---------------

Cohort design is an attractive feature. The ability to add students at different point creates flexibility. Students can attend classes or participate online. The latter is a true advantage for the "traveler" who wants to pursue a higher degree.

IIIE.	Scheduling Frequency & Sequencing of Required Courses Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Strong
-------	--	--------------------	---------------

More data needed.

IIIF.	Enrollment Levels in Required Courses Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Not rated
-------	--	--------------------	------------------

No data provided on course offerings per term.

IIIG.	Diversity of Program's Majors & Graduates Council's Observations:	Very Strong	Satisfactory
-------	--	--------------------	---------------------

25% are Asian, 5% are Black, 10% are female. No graduates.

IIII. Faculty's Instructional Productivity **Very Strong** **Satisfactory/Weak**
Council's Observations:

Data provided addresses the entire dept. It's difficult to determine instructional productivity from the self study. Given six faculty are assigned and 18 students were in the program in the fall, satisfactory/weak appears more appropriate. This is a recurring problem across campus.

IIII. Cost-Effectiveness of Program Instruction **Very Strong** **Strong**
Council's Observations:

Data represents the entire department. However, premium pricing helps offset the expense of this kind of program.

IIII. Responsiveness to State Needs & Demand for Graduates **Very Strong** **Satisfactory**
Council's Observations:

The self-study speaks to the need for this program; however, the small number of students enrolled and the fact no students have graduated yet, warrants a lower rating. Changing market conditions.....

IIIIK. Program's Ranking in the University System **Strong--opportunities** **Not rated**
Council's Observations: **for growth**

No graduates yet. Program designed to graduate 25 in a cohort group. The fall group included 18 students. How many are in the spring?

IIII. Program's Contribution to Achieving KSU Mission **Very Strong** **Strong**
Council's Observations:

This program is extremely service-oriented and seeks to develop collaborative relationships. The program schedules classes to meet the needs of the "working" student.

IV. PROGRAM'S VIABILITY AT KSU **Very Viable** **Viable**
Council's Observations:

The program is new and has the potential for growth.

V. MODEL PROGRAM POTENTIAL **Very Strong** **Satisfactory**
Council's Observations:

Time will speak to the effectiveness of this program. Premium pricing and distance learning are two unique traits.

VI. COUNCIL'S OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE PLANS FOR IMPROVING QUALITY & PRODUCTIVITY **Very Strong** **Satisfactory**

No plans are detailed for improvement. The program does make use of an advisory board and makes adjustments to the program accordingly. Likewise, the dept. is considering the effects of premium pricing. A specific plan for improving productivity would be helpful.

VII. EXPAND, MAINTAIN, CONSOLIDATE, OR DISCONTINUE Council's Observations: **Maintain**

The council recommends the department continue to pursue the strategies behind this program.

COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP

Develop a plan for attracting more females as students and faculty.

Continue to develop assessment procedures.

Develop a plan for ensuring cohort groups are filled.

Develop a marketing/advertising plan.

Clearly define major initiatives/projects such as the Yamacraw Initiative in the early part of future reports. (Keep in mind those evaluating the program may need that kind of information.)