IT MS Comprehensive Exam

Information

There are two graduation requirements for the master’s degree to be completed in the last term when they apply for graduation. These are part of the student’s comprehensive examination and no physical meeting is required. A student must enroll for 3 hours of coursework the semester he/she completes the comprehensive examination. If there are any questions, please contact your advisor.

The comprehensive examination for the master’s degree include the following two components:

I. **Requirement One: Written comprehensive examination** – Students will select 2 essay questions from a selected group that covers the general principles covered in IT core courses. Students will have a designated time period (e.g., two-weeks) to answer these questions thoroughly and comprehensively to demonstrate their theoretical understanding and practice in the field within a designated time period. Students will be expected to use literature references for each question and cite them in APA style. Each answer should be about ten double-spaced pages.

   Pass/fail only based upon results from the Evaluation Rubric.

II. **Requirement Two: Portfolio** – Students complete a digital portfolio to demonstrate their progress and achievements of competencies in the program. The portfolio should be guided by ISTE (NETS.T) Standards and be professionally designed in its layout. A portfolio reflects the depth and breadth of a student’s educational growth since entering the IT graduate program. Portfolios may include, but are not limited to, classroom examinations, writing samples, publishable scholarship, professional multimedia or Web-based projects, annotated bibliographies, and artistic endeavors. Faculty recommends students to use an easy, full-featured blogging (e.g., Wordpress) or Web site program (e.g., GoogleSites) to organize and present their work. Here is an example/template for your e-portfolio: [http://usm-it-ms.weebly.com/](http://usm-it-ms.weebly.com/). You can download criteria in developing the portfolio from this site.

   Pass/fail only based upon results from the Evaluation Rubric.

Students planning to take the comprehensive examination need to let their advisors be aware. Suggestions and guidelines for successfully passing the examination will be provided the semester prior to the examination. Please inform your advisor if you are planning to take the comprehensive exam.

Last Update: August 24, 2014

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