Program: Computer Science M.C.S., M.S., Ph.D. Program  
Rating: High Quality

Three graduate degrees in Computer Science are offered: the PhD and MS in Computer Science and the Master in Computer Science (MCS). The demand for these degrees is high with only 10-15% of the applicants admitted. 25% of those enrolled are women which is a high percentage for the discipline and one of the highest in the CIC. The MCS degree program prepares students for industry careers requiring computing skills and while MCS students are not typically offered financial support by CS, many find positions in other departments as teaching or research assistants. All PhD students are provided financial support while they are making progress toward their degree. The PhD completion rate was viewed as low (29%) and the median TTD of 6.7 yrs for the same time period (1996-2001) was viewed as long; however, the program’s strategic assessment attributed this to large numbers of students leaving the PhD program with a MCS degree for high paying industry jobs. In 2002, efforts were implemented to improve the PhD completion by clarifying the difference between the PhD and MCS degrees and by instituting yearly evaluations. The number of student papers coauthored, conference presentations, and internships have risen since these efforts were instituted. Research grant funding in the department has increased in recent years and this should lead to more RA support for PhD students. The program should regularly monitor the % completion and TTD to ensure that these efforts continue to be successful. The goals are to produce 20-25 MCS graduates per year and 5-10 PhD graduates per year and these seem reasonable in light of recent efforts.