Computer Science Assessment Report 2017

June 1, 2017

Introduction

The computer science department is in year one of a complete restructuring of the curriculum. In particular, this year's computer science assessment plan is the first such plan to be written for the new major. Since the current iteration of the major is new, and since the new assessment plan has just been written, the data available for the 2017 assessment report is sparse. We file this report with the understanding that each subsequent year's assessment report should be progressively more robust.

Program Assessment Meetings

Professors Cummins, Heinekamp, Hogan, and Stiadle met in May 2017 for approximately one hour to discuss (among other topics) the computer science assessment plan. It was agreed that since the program was so new, the current focus should be on identifying benchmarks for learning outcomes and collecting data for measurement.

Closing The Loop

So far, the changes to the CS major this year have come primarily in CS131, CS132, and CS325. These are the computer science classes whose new versions were taught this year. They provided us with a good feel for what to expect next year in terms of hard data to measure against our 2017 assessment plan. Unfortunately, since the assessment plan was not in place until this May, specific data to evaluate the assessment plan was not collected.

Examination of Data Collected This Year

As mentioned above, aside from subjective observations, there is not yet any good data to work with. Now that an assessment plan is in place, next year we can collect specific targeted data to measure the outcomes described in our assessment plan.

Program Changes for Next Year

We will be teaching the CS131 and CS132 sequence for the second time next year. We will also be teaching the new versions of CS228, CS310 and CS340 for the first time. As we teach these courses, we will decide on appropriate benchmarks for measuring the learning outcomes in our assessment plan.