Both the standard and interdisciplinary options of the M.S. Project Plan require successful completion of 49 units of credit, including a satisfactory grade for at least 4 units of the CSE 293 Special Projects course, and a master’s level pass in the comprehensive exam. For general requirements and policies for the M.S. degree, students should refer to http://www-cse.ucsd.edu/graduate-education/degree-programs/ms.html.

The comprehensive exam for project plan students consists of a project presentation and an oral examination. The oral exam is designed to test the student’s knowledge of his or her chosen specialization and general topics covered in core courses. A student may take the exam only after completing the majority of his or her CSE core and concentration courses. Preferably, the exam should be taken in the quarter when the student finishes the project, but may be taken in a later quarter.

All project presentations and oral exams will be evaluated by a committee consisting of two or more members, representing at least two different concentrations. The M.S. Affairs committee is responsible for overseeing the appointment of each committee. The student’s adviser is welcome, but not required, to attend, to ask questions, and to participate in deliberations, but will not have a vote.

All project presentations and oral exams will take place during finals week of each quarter. The M.S. adviser (currently Nadyne Nawar) will announce the exam days and times. Students must be available for all times and days, except when they have a scheduled written final exam for a course. The exam will last for 45 minutes for each student. In this time, the student will present his or her project for 25 minutes, the committee will ask questions, and the committee will deliberate. Presentations and questioning are open to the public.

Requirements for the M.S. degree, project plan

- Students must enroll in at least 4 units of CSE 293, satisfactory/unsatisfactory in the quarter(s) they are working on a project. It is the responsibility of each student to find a project adviser. Students should find an adviser in the quarter prior to the start of CSE293. Although it may be possible to complete a project in one quarter when research is the sole focus, typically students need more time complete a successful project.

- The final report for the project should be written in good narrative English. The report should provide motivation for the problem being addressed, describe the project and any results of the project, and include appropriate figures, tables, equations, citations, and references. Any standard formatting is acceptable. The length is the equivalent in the chosen formatting of six to ten pages, double-column, single-spaced.
- Quarterly timeline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Announcement of Exam Date</th>
<th>M.S. adviser announces exam dates</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval of Final Reports</td>
<td>A Final Report Form is submitted to the M.S. Advisor in Student Affairs by the student’s supervisor verifying approval/disapproval of the student’s report.</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copy of Report and Presentation</td>
<td>PDF copies of the student’s report and presentation should be sent to the M.S. Advisor in Student Affairs by the end of week 9</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td>Starting on Monday of Finals Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students may take the comprehensive exam only if their adviser has approved the final report for the project.
- Students normally take the exam at the end of the same quarter in which they finish the work for the project.
- Students must do independent work, as judged by their adviser. However, there is no limit on how much advisers and collaborators may contribute to projects and reports. Students may work jointly on a project, but individual reports, presentations, and exams are required.
- Projects must use and demonstrate graduate-level knowledge of computer science or computer engineering. However, projects are not required to be novel research. Continuing and expanding a class project from a prior quarter is acceptable. Projects may be centered in fields outside computer science.
- Student reports and presentations will be public. Underlying data and code may be kept confidential, but each report and presentation must be adequate to allow the work to be understood and evaluated. Presentations should use slides projected from a computer provided by the student.
- If the adviser is not a member of the UCSD academic senate, and not a Research Scientist, then a tenure-track CSE faculty member must be a co-adviser. Members of the MS Affairs committee are available to be co-advisers.

**Project Presentation, Oral Exam Questions and Evaluation**
- The student’s presentation should introduce the topic of the project and project goals at a level that would be understood by a typical MS student with any specialization. It should then detail the project and key results obtained. If the project involved collaborators or a team, their roles should be described. The presentation may describe what parts took the most effort, obstacles overcome, and future directions.
- There is no set syllabus for the oral exam questions. The committee may respond to the student’s presentation or ask questions that draw on graduate CSE courses, in particular the core and concentration courses taken by the student. Questions will be relevant to the field of the student’s project.
- The M.S. Affairs committee will create a standard evaluation form for student presentations and exams.
- Passing the comprehensive exam is separate from obtaining a “satisfactory” grade for CSE 293. If a student does not pass the exam, he or she may petition for approval to retake it. The M.S. Affairs committee will grant or deny these petitions after taking into account all relevant circumstances.

**Student Responsibilities**
It is the responsibility of each student to find his or her project adviser. Students who feel that they cannot find an adviser must consult with the M.S. adviser (currently Nadye Nawar) and then with the M.S. Affairs committee. It is the responsibility of each student to meet all requirements and deadlines. Students, advisers, and committee members must plan in advance to avoid schedule conflicts, in particular on the day of project presentations and exams.
Evaluation Form for the M.S. Comprehensive Examination  
Department of Computer Science and Engineering, UCSD

Name of student: __________________________

Date of exam: ________________

1. Has the student demonstrated capacity to perform graduate-level project work in CSE?

   Excellent  Good  Passable  Unsatisfactory

   Optional comments and explanations:

2. Has the student shown ability to communicate technical work in the presentation?

   Excellent  Good  Passable  Unsatisfactory

   Optional comments and explanations:

3. Has the student demonstrated mastery of graduate-level technical knowledge in CSE?

   Excellent  Good  Passable  Unsatisfactory

   Optional comments and explanations:

Exam Result (circle one): Passed / Not Passed

Should this presentation and report be posted on the departmental web page as an exemplary sample?