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. The exam should preferably be taken in the same quarter the student finishes the project, but may be taken in a later quarter.

All project presentations and oral exams will be administered by a committee consisting of three tenure-track CSE faculty. The three faculty will represent at least two different concentrations. At the start of each quarter, the M.S. committee will appoint this standing committee. The adviser of each student is welcome, but not required, to attend, to ask questions, and to participate in deliberations, but will not have a vote. If the adviser happens to be a member of the standing committee, the adviser will have a vote. In unusual cases, the standing committee may solicit expertise from other CSE faculty.

All project presentations and oral exams will take place on one or two designated days 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 one hour for each student. In this time, the student will present his or her project for 30 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**

- Enrollment in at least 4 units of CSE 293, satisfactory/unsatisfactory, to do the work for the project. It is the responsibility of each student to find a project adviser.

- The final report for the project should be written in good narrative English. The report should 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 signed 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>Monday and Tuesday of Finals Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The student may take the comprehensive exam only if the adviser has approved the final report for the project.
- Students should 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.
- Projects can be started and finished in just one quarter. There are cases in which the student may work on the project for two or more quarters.
- 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 standing committee are available to be co-advisers.

**Oral Exam Questions and Evaluation**

- There is no set syllabus for the oral exam. The standing committee will 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. 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. 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 Nadyne Nawar) and then with the M.S. committee. It is the responsibility of each student to meet all requirements and deadlines. Students, advisers, and standing committee members must plan in advance to avoid schedule conflicts, in particular on the day of project presentations and exams.