

Master's Comprehensive Exam Effective Fall 2023

Format of the Exam

Students choose one of the two options below.

Option 1 – Write a paper

- Based on a topic provided by the Comprehensive Exam Committee, the student will write a 5-page paper (using the IEEE Conference Format) focused on research, policy, or practice.
- The paper must also contain a section reflecting on the student's Master's degree coursework including
 - Which courses were most useful and why
 - Which courses or topics they believe are missing from the Master's degree program
- Students pursuing this option must register for the exam by the **Degree Application Date** through this form: https://universityofalabama.edu/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ai06MT4rwiq3eS.
- On **Monday following the Degree Application Date** the Graduate Program Director will email the Comprehensive Exam theme students who have registered for the exam.
- Students will have 3 weeks to individually write the 5-page paper
- Students must submit the paper via email to the Graduate Program Director no later than **4:30 PM on the Friday of the 3rd week after receiving the exam** (i.e., 18 days after receiving the exam).
- The Comprehensive Exam Committee will evaluate the papers to ensure they meet the assigned theme and are of sufficient technical depth
- The Comprehensive Exam Committee will assign either a PASS or FAIL grade

Option 2 – Complete an Internship or Other Professional Work Experience

- The Internship or Professional Work Experience must be related to Computer Science
- Prior to the internship or professional work experience, the student must submit an application, via a webform (https://universityofalabama.edu/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bJwCZsiWTwWMh4G), that includes a description of the Internship or Professional Work Experience and a justification for how it is related to Computer Science
- The Graduate Committee will review the proposals and approve the internship or professional work experience
- Upon completion of the Internship or Professional Work Experience, the student must submit a 3-5 page paper (using the IEEE Conference format) describing
 - What they learned and/or did (at whatever level of detail it is possible to share)
 - What topics or information from UA CS courses the student was able to apply and how?
 - What the student wished they had learned in their UA courses prior to the internship or professional work experience
- The report must be submitted to the Graduate Program Director by **4:30 PM on the Friday 3 weeks after the Degree Application Date**.
- The report will be evaluated by the Graduate Committee to ensure it contains sufficient information with regards to the questions above
- The Graduate Committee will assign a PASS or FAIL grade