

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES  
Department of Computer Science

Comprehensive Exam  
Non-Thesis Option I and Non Thesis Option II  
(CS 6961)

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ ID: @ \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Non Thesis I:     Non Thesis II    Expected Graduation Term: \_\_\_\_\_

**See Non Thesis I and Non Thesis II requirements on the back of this form.**

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CRN	Subject	Course #	Section	Instructor
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Student	Date
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Advisor	Date
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## **The Non-thesis Option I**

Requirements of this option include:

- Choose a project topic and write a project proposal
- Have project proposal approved by M.S. Supervisory Committee
- Complete 6 hours of directed research
- Successfully defend project
- Submit project output to the Department

Students who choose the non-thesis option must either complete a project or complete a program of course work. The option I may involve a project of a large programming or hardware development effort which is usually done over two semesters and includes a report or user's manual submitted as a UTSA CS Technical Report. Alternatively, Option I may involve producing a research paper or technical report which is to be submitted for publication with at least the student and advisor as co-authors. The project topic will normally be in a common interest area to both student and advisor. The project should be discussed with and approved by the student's M.S. Supervisory Committee before the student begins work associated with the project. A signed copy of the proposal must be placed in the student's permanent file. The student may apply up to a maximum of 6 hours of CS5973 Directed Research toward the master's degree. Under the non-thesis option I, the student will typically not apply any hours of CS6983 Master's Thesis toward the master's degree. Note that this is automatic since the only way to get a grade in CS6983 Master's Thesis is to complete a thesis. In addition, although the student may apply hours of CS 6953 Independent Study towards the M.S. degree under this option, the total number of hours of CS 6953 and CS 5973 is limited to 6 hours.

## **The Non-thesis Option II**

Requirements of this option include:

- Complete additional 6 hours of formal (class-room taught) courses
- Choose a topic and a list of (typically 3) papers on the topic
- Have topic and papers approved by the M.S. Supervisory Committee
- Give an oral presentation followed by an oral examination

The non-thesis option II involves earning 36 credit hours of formal graduate course work. This option requires that the student select a topic, read a list of papers in this topic, which were not discussed in any of the student's courses, and do a formal oral presentation as an open seminar. The topic and list of papers should be discussed with and approved by the student's M.S. Supervisory Committee before the student begins reading the papers and preparing a presentation. A signed copy of the topic and list of papers must be placed in the student's permanent file. Under the non-thesis option II, the student will typically not apply any hours of CS5973 Directed Research, CS6983 Master's Thesis or CS 6953 Independent Study toward the master's degree.