

RUTGERS

Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
96 Frelinghuysen Road • Piscataway • New Jersey 08854-8018
salbin@rci.rutgers.edu • Ph 732/445-2238 • Fax 732/445-5467

April 17, 2007

Dean Harvey Waterman
Graduate School – New Brunswick

Re: Replacement of the Master Comprehensive Exam requirement with an essay and presentation for non-thesis Industrial and Systems Engineering MS students

Dear Dean Waterman:

Many top graduate programs in our field locally and around the country do not have a comprehensive examination. The required essay in place of the comprehensive examination mandated by the Graduate School - NB will make our program more competitive and offer our students a positive experience.

As a substitution for the Master Comprehensive Exam, we will require that our students write an essay in the form of a technical paper and present the work in a public seminar attended by graduate students and at least three faculty members. The essay and presentation must be approved by at least three members of the Graduate Faculty. Details on the implementation of the required essay are given in the attached proposal that was approved unanimously by a vote of the faculty in November 2007.

I request that our proposal for elimination of the Master Comprehensive Exam be presented to the Graduate School Physical Sciences Area Committee for approval.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Albin
Professor and Graduate Director

Proposal: Non-Thesis MS Program Presentation And Report

To comply with a new policy from the Graduate School New Brunswick, we have a new requirement for MS students in the non-thesis option, starting with students entering in Fall 2007.

Each student must write a report and make a presentation at a public seminar on an Industrial and Systems Engineering topic. Graduate students and at least three faculty members will attend the presentation. The final report must be approved by at least three members of the Graduate Faculty.

Each student will identify a faculty member as his or her supervisor who will approve the topic. Possible topics include work that was done individually for a class project, an extension of class material, or review and synthesis of several journal articles.

The presentation will be 20 minutes long. Dates in October and November, February and March, will be set aside for presentations. Students will sign up in advance for a presentation date.

The report must be approximately 20 pages, double-spaced, 12-font. The format will be typical of scientific papers: abstract, introduction, two or three sections of a body, summary, references, and appendices if necessary.

If the presentation and report is not accepted, the student will be required to make revisions