

SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS AND EARLY ADOPTERS



A New Reference Curriculum for Graduate Studies Leading to a Master's Degree in Software Engineering

Since August 2007, a group of more than 40 professionals from academia, industry, and government have been developing a new reference curriculum leading to a Master's Degree in Software Engineering. The new Graduate Software Engineering Reference Curriculum (GSwERC) will reflect the dramatic changes in how software is used and developed since the last major graduate reference curriculum was published in the early 1990's and will integrate systems engineering into the education of software engineers. Besides so many dedicated individual authors, 5 professional societies are participating: ACM, IEEE Computer Society, International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE), U.S. National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA) Systems Engineering Division, and the Brazilian Computer Society. The U.S. Department of Defense is sponsoring and funding the effort.

GSwERC has been through two rounds of public review, which have led to hundreds of comments that are now being incorporated into Version 0.5, which is the most current public draft (available at www.GSwERC.org). The GSwERC author team expects to release Version 1.0 around the end of September 2009.

GSwERC is a reference curriculum. Universities are expected to adapt the recommendations to their unique needs and environment. The primary GSwERC document will include a set of outcomes that students should achieve by graduation, a set of expectations for what students should know when they enter a master's program, a curriculum architecture, and a body of knowledge based largely on the Software Engineering Body of Knowledge, but with important additions in such areas as systems engineering, ethics, and security.

The author team will also release companion documents to the reference curriculum. These additional documents will guide faculty who wish to adopt GSwERC; e.g., they will recommend an appropriate mix of experience for faculty members and suggest alternative ways to implement a new master's program. Those companion documents will also compare several existing programs with GSwERC to help gauge how different GSwERC recommendations are from existing practice.

The author team is now seeking faculty members who are interested in comparing their programs to GSwERC and those who are interested in early adoption. Comparisons will be published, but will be anonymous, if so desired. Help from the author team is available for both comparison and adoption.

Please visit our website at
www.GSwERC.org
for more information.

Dr. Art Pyster, Distinguished Research Professor, from Stevens Institute of Technology in the United States, is the project leader for GSwERC.

Please contact him at
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interested in participating or if you would
like information beyond what is available
at our website..

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