Welcome
Software Engineering
Class of 2009

John Collins, Director of Grad. Studies
Mats Heimdahl, UMSEC Director
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Agenda

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Goals – why are we here?

- Leadership role?
- Professional standing?
- Curiosity?
- Credentials?
First year (2006-2007)

Second year

Being a student again

You may find that MSSE courses are very different from your undergrad experience.

• Professors have more questions than answers.
• Fellow students have much to share.
• We will keep you very busy.
• You will need good study habits.
Grades

- Grading is generally to criterion, not a curve.
- Understand what each professor expects.
- Many of you have been very good students.
  - It may not be as easy to get A's here as it was when you were an undergrad.
  - We would not have admitted you if we thought you could not do the work.
- In Grad School, a C is barely acceptable.
- A GPA below 2.8 will put you on probation.
- We try to minimize unpleasant surprises.

Workload

- This is a full-time program.
- Expect 15-20 hours/week outside class:
  - Reading, Homework
  - Team projects
  - Exam preparation
- Some courses will have a mix of homework, midterms, and final exam
- Some courses are project-oriented.
- Find a quiet place to study!

Team projects

- Much of the homework will be team projects.
- You will develop skill in organizing and being productive as a group.
- Most team projects are graded both individually and as a team.
  - This means that you will be asked to evaluate your own performance as well as teammate performance.
  - This works well as long as expectations are clear among team members.
Seminars

- Each Fall semester, we offer 4 half-day sessions on topics that don't fit in our regular class schedule.
- For Fall 2008:
  - *Static Program Analysis at NASA:* Dr. Guillaume Brat
  - *Intellectual Property and Public Policy:* Prof. Thomas Cotter
  - *Writing Workshop:* Dr. Stephen Wilbers
  - *Agile Development Workshop:* David Hussman
- Suggestions invited for 2009 series...

Final project

- In the final semester, you have the option of two electives, or one elective and an independent project.
- You are encouraged to choose the project.
- Projects can be individual or small teams.
- If you do the project, you need to get started early.
- Emphasis can be architecture, development, process, or other aspect of SE
- Topic ideas: University research, workplace problem, personal interest,

Electives

- Each Spring, 3-4 electives are offered for 2nd-year students.
- Choice of electives is by class vote.
  - Options published late in the 2nd semester.
- For Spring 2008:
  - Distributed application design & devel.
  - Data analytics
  - Enterprise architecture
  - Dynamic programming languages
Transfer credits

• A few students have some post-graduate work that can be applied to the MSSE degree.
• In most cases, only 3 transfer credits are permitted, and there is no cost savings.
• Transfer credits should be for work that is substantially identical to a **required** MSSE course.
• To apply for transfer credit, see Dr. Collins.

Questions and concerns

• We are trying to make the program website as comprehensive as possible. Look there first. [www.msse.umn.edu](http://www.msse.umn.edu)
• For class-related questions, talk to your professor or TA.
• For general academic questions, see the DGS (Dr. Collins). Office hours Friday afternoons.
• For everything else, see Jenny.