Go to [http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources](http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources) for information about mission statements and links to SFSU statements

*Mission Statement Assessment Activity Report Due April 21, 2017 to the Office of Academic Planning*

**Mission Statements – What do we do, why do we do it, how do we do it, who are we doing it for?**

*Why are they important?* (from NAU) Understanding and articulating your program’s overall goals, purpose, and values accomplishes a number of things for your degree program. First, it synthesizes the many unique talents and goals of your faculty and aligns them into a single, common purpose. The identification of a common purpose assists faculty in making decisions concerning program and course level learning outcomes. In addition, it guides and focuses your program's decision processes concerning important assessment questions and directions needing investigation, based on your program's larger direction, values, and goals.

A program mission statement (from NAU, UConn and elsewhere)

- Is a broad statement of the educational purpose of the program, describes the community the program serves, and states the values and guiding principles which define its standards
- Sets the tone and philosophical position from which the programs goals/objectives/outcomes are developed
- Describes both the purpose and the learning environment of the program
- Reflects how the program contributes to the education and careers of students graduating from the program
- Reflects how the teaching and research efforts are used to enhance student learning
- Is aligned with department, college and university missions
- Should be distinctive for the program

**Mission Statement Rubric** – developed and used by the University Academic Assessment Advisory Committee (UAAAC) to provide feedback to programs about their mission statement.

The program's mission statement concisely articulates its guiding purpose and identity, clarifies the educational value of its curriculum, and aligns with the university's broader public mission.

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<th>DEVELOPED</th>
<th>DEVELOPING</th>
<th>NEEDS DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>ABSENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clear statement of program’s purpose and identity, the educational value of curriculum, and its link to university's mission</td>
<td>Mission statement articulates program's purpose but may lack broader context</td>
<td>Vague mission statement with little connection to specific program</td>
<td>No mission statement</td>
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**San Francisco State University Mission Statement  Academic Senate Policy #S15-176**

From the heart of a diverse community, San Francisco State University honors roots, stimulates intellectual and personal development, promotes equity, and inspires the courage to lead, create, and innovate.

SF State is a major public urban university, situated in one of the world’s great cities. Building on a century-long history of commitment to quality teaching and broad access to undergraduate and graduate education, the University offers comprehensive, rigorous, and integrated academic programs that require students to engage in open-minded inquiry and reflection. SF State encourages its students, faculty, and staff to engage fully with the community and develop and share knowledge.

Inspired by the diversity of our community that includes many first-generation college students, and the courage of an academic community that strives to break down traditional boundaries, SF State equips its students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. With the unwavering commitment to social justice that is central to the work of the university, SF State prepares its students to become productive, ethical, active citizens with a global perspective.
Go to [http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources](http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources) for information about mission statements and links to SFSU statements.

**Mission Statement Assessment Activity Report Due April 21, 2017 to the Office of Academic Planning**

**Mission Statement Activity Report Template**

Department ___________ Computer Science ___________

College ____________ COSE ____________________

1. What was your most recent mission statement prior to any revisions?

Our mission statement has been posted on the CS website since (at least) 2007: [http://cs.sfsu.edu/prospective-students/mission-objectives](http://cs.sfsu.edu/prospective-students/mission-objectives)

The current version is below. It was written concisely with accreditation and assessment processes in mind. (Program Learning Objectives and Outcomes are also on the same webpage.)

**Mission & Objectives**

**The Mission of the Computer Science Department is:**

- To prepare students for careers as software professionals.
- To prepare students for graduate studies in Computer Science.

2. Please describe the process of revising or developing your mission statement. What informed your discussions about your new or revised mission statement (e.g. changes in the profession, new focus of the department)? How were department faculty members involved? Was it developed in department meetings or other gatherings?

All our main decisions are initiated and discussed at bi-monthly department meetings attended by all full time faculty, and some part time faculty. When needed, committees are formed to propose specific solutions which are then again discussed and adopted at full faculty meeting.

Revision of current mission was initiated in this assessment cycle by recognizing the need to make the mission statement broader and more accessible and motivational to a wider audience of the diverse community we want to attract.

The draft of the new mission statement was initially created by the CS Department Chair and Associate Chair. At the department meeting on 4/19/2017, all department faculty were involved in a conversation of the draft statement, converging in the final version (below).

3. What is your revised mission statement?

The mission of the Computer Science Department is to prepare students for careers as software professionals and for advanced studies in Computer Science. We develop and work with a range
Go to [http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources](http://air.sfsu.edu/assessment/resources) for information about mission statements and links to SFSU statements of technologies to build systems and applications that help solve today’s problems, and share skills and knowledge with the community.

We are committed to providing the opportunity to master the computer science discipline to students from all backgrounds. Our program combines strong fundamentals, project- and team-oriented activities, and soft skills, leading to a well-rounded professional education.

4. Please post your revised mission statement on your department web page.

Given that this year you revised your mission statement, the next step would be to review of your program learning goals in the 2017-18 academic year. If that is not the case, please notify the Associate Dean of Academic Planning. Thank you!