Title: Replace MS comp exam grades with course grades

Background: Currently the MS degree without thesis requires, among other things:

"During the first month of the Fall and Spring semesters, the Grad Office will announce the time to sign up for [MS] comps. You must sign up for comps in order for the courses taken to be counted as comps."

"You must complete at least four computer science courses at the 600-800 level in four out of the seven areas. For these four courses, you must have at least a B average."

"You must complete four courses with at least B comp grades, and at least two of them with A comp grades."

These comp exams must be identified by the course instructor at the beginning of the semester, and may be a midterm exam, final exam, or combination of exams.

Proposal:

1. Replace the "comp grade" requirements with "course grade requirements" for students entering in Spring 2016 or later, with no other changes, e.g., no changes to the number of A's or B's, etc.

2. For all students who entered in Fall 2015 or earlier, for any course taken Fall 2015 or later:
   a. By default, the course grade will count as the comp grade, unless
   b. The student notifies the grad office in writing, by the first day of the semester, that the student wishes to take the MS comp exam(s) for their MS comp grade for specific course(s) that semester.

3. The course requirements shall be the same for the MS with thesis and MS without thesis option. (It is unclear now whether they are---the grad policy manual suggests that comp exams are not used for the MS with thesis option, which is confusing.)