Who?

- MS in CSE students under the AY2015 or AY2016 curricula.

What?

The Masters Committee (MSCOM) advises that the following petitions will automatically be approved by CSE:

- Students converting from the thesis option to the exam option, with the approval of their CSE-298 instructor (former thesis advisor), to substitute up to 4-units of CSE-298 for an equal number of units of CSE-293.

- Students converting from the exam option to the thesis option, with the approval of their thesis advisor, to substitute up to 4-units of CSE-293 for an equal number of units of CSE-298.

- CSE-293 can be used for any independent study project supervised by a faculty member, not just "research"

The Masters Committee additionally advises that:

- Although CSE-293 is often described as "Masters Research", this is, and has always been, incorrect. The CSE-293 projects need not be research. The official course description is as follows:

  CSE 293. Special Project in Computer Science and Engineering (1–12)
  The student will conceive, design, and execute a project in computer science under the direction of a faculty member. The project will typically include a large programming or hardware design task, but other types of projects are possible. ***Prerequisites:*** CSE graduate student status

Why?

- We want students to be able to start a project (CSE-293) and have it turn into thesis research (CSE-298). When this happens, the original CSE-293 should count toward the thesis requirement. But, this should be done only with the approval of the thesis advisor to ensure that there is no confusion w.r.t. the amount of thesis progress that has been made.

- If what was intended as a thesis turns out to be a false start, but still was of value or interesting, it should still count for something, even if there isn't a desire to start another thesis. So, CSE-298 should be able to count as CSE-293. But, since we don't want to reward wasting an advisor's time and bailing on a thesis, this should only be with the CSE-298 instructor/thesis advisor's permission.

- CSE-293 should accommodate any type of project that a CSE instructor and student agree is a worthwhile graduate-level project, even if it isn't research, per se.

When?

- Effective immediately. But, of course, subject to change by the Masters Committee at any time.

How?

- Please see your academic advisor for help with the required petitions.
- Other Questions? Feel free to contact Greg Kesden, gkesden@eng.ucsd.edu, or your academic advisor.