

CMSC 201

Section 40

Spring 2022

Project #2: Files, Dictionaries and Lists

Project Value: 80 points

Due Date:

Completed Project: Monday, April 25, 2022, before midnight

Overview:

The purpose of this project is to gain expertise in working with dictionaries and multi-dimensional lists. Getting user input through the use of menus will be an important secondary skill.

You must also demonstrate good design practices and proper coding/testing practices through compliance with CMSC 201 Python coding standards. When you have successfully completed this project you will have demonstrated skill in the use of complex data structures in Python.

Design and constraints:

You are given many fewer constraints on the design of this project than of project 1, and thus you have much more freedom to express your own coding style. Be wary, though, because that gives you the freedom to do things wrong. Hopefully we've taught you better than that!

You must use proper design and modularity. Implement a function where you need it. If you do something multiple times, it should probably be a function. If you do something that's separate

from the rest of the code, you should probably isolate it by putting it in a function. If you need to interact with the user or the system in some way, in different parts of the program, you should probably implement a helper function to take care of that.

Data:

You will be reading in three files of (fake) student records. (No real records would be used in this assignment. 😊)

The files are called Fall_2025.CSV, Spring_2026.CSV, and Fall_2026.CSV. These files contain student grade records from future semesters. Each file contains two header lines, which you will read in and then discard. After that comes some number of student records. There is one record per line. The format of each line is:

Student last name, student first name, student ID, project 1 grade, project 2 grade, project 3 grade, test 1 grade, test 2 grade, test 3 grade.

Each value is separated by a comma from the next value, which is why these files are called “Comma-separated value” or “csv” files.

Your program:

You will write a program that does the following:

Step 1:

Read in and process the three files. Each file will be read into a separate list of dictionaries.

Specifically: each row in a file will be read into a dictionary that contains the “student record.” A semester will consist of a list of all the “student records “ - all the dictionaries - from a particular semester, combined into a list.

(Insert dictionary definition here.)

Each file should be put into a separate list of dictionaries— one list for Fall_2025, one list for Spring_2026, and one list for Fall_2026.

Each dictionary must have the following keys:

“Last_name” - the student last name; a string

"First_name" - the student first name; a string

"ID" - the student ID; a string

"Projects" - a list containing the students' three project scores. Make sure that these scores are converted to integers.

"Tests" - a list containing the students' three test scores. Make sure that these scores are converted to integers.

As a warning: some files *may* contain extra newline characters will result in extra dictionaries with no data being added to the end of your list. It is your responsibility as the programmer to detect this and delete the extra rows, so that your number of students in each class is accurate.

Once you have successfully built these three lists, you may move on to the next step.

Step 2:

Insert three new keys into each dictionary in each of the three lists:

- "Project Total" - an integer, its value will be the sum of the three project scores for that student
- "Test Total" - an integer, its value will be the sum of the three test scores for that students.
- "Grade" - a string. Its value will be a single letter that represents the student's grade for the class. The total possible number of points is 640. To calculate the letter grade, divide the student's total points, from column 10, by 640. If this is greater than or equal to 90%, enter an "A" in column 11. Greater than or equal to 80% but less than 90% gets a "B" in column 11. Greater than or equal to 70% but less than 80% gets a "C"; greater than or equal to 60% but less than 70% gets a "D"; and less than 60% gets an "F" in column 11.

Once you have inserted these new key/value pairs into all student dictionaries, you may move on to the next step.

Step 3:

The three lists of dictionaries you have built constitute a "database" of student grades that can be queried by users who need information about student grades. Now you need to provide an interface to let users actually query your database and do their jobs.

Do this by displaying on the screen a menu of choices that the users can make. Then read in the choices that they type in, and perform the request operation.

The menu does not have to look exactly like this, but it should be very similar. In other words, you should offer the same options, in the same order, but your messages do not have to exactly match the samples.

Welcome to the Student Grade Information Service

What would you like to do?

To search by student last name, enter "L"

To search by student ID, enter "S"

To exit the system, enter "Q"

You must then read in the input the user types. All input from the keyboard is a string, so there's no reason that your program should ever crash here, regardless of what the user types!

We'll be a little forgiving of users here. If the user types either an uppercase "L" or a lowercase "l" move to Step 4. If the user enters either an uppercase "S" or a lowercase "s" also move to Step 4. If the user enters either an uppercase "Q" or a lowercase "q" move to Step 8, where the program terminates.

If the user enters anything other than those 6 values listed above, display an error message that says

I'm sorry, but that <echo the user input> is not a valid choice.

Replace <echo the user input> with whatever the user actually typed.

And then re-display the menu. Keep doing this until the user enters a valid value.

Step 4:

Next you must find out which semester the student to be searched for attended the class. Regardless of whether the user entered "L", "l", "S", or "s", display the following menu:

In which semester was the student enrolled?

Enter "F" for Fall_2025

Enter "S" for Spring_2026

Enter "T" for Fall_2026

Enter "U" if you do not know.

Again, validate the input. This is a string, so there's no excuse for crashing. If the user enters anything other than "F", "f", "S", "s", "T", "t", "U" or "u", print the same error message you displayed in Step 3 (ooh, sounds like a helper function!!) and re-display the menu. Keep doing this until you get a valid input. When you have a valid input, you may move on to Step 5.

Step 5:

Decide what to do next. If the input from Step 3 was "L" or "l", go to Step 6. When you call the function in Step 6, pass the value you got in Step 4.

If the input you got from Step 3 was "S" or "s", go to Step 7. When you call the function in Step 7, pass the value you got in Step 4.

Step 6:

Here, you process a request for a student grade, search by student last name. Prompt the user to enter the last name of the student for whom the user is searching.

The user will enter a string. You will now search for this string in your database.

Your code was passed a value, read in Step 4, that indicates which semester the student was purportedly enrolled in the class. If the value from Step 4 was "F" or "f" search only in the list of dictionaries created from the Fall_2025 file. If the value from Step 4 was "S" or "s" search only in the list of dictionaries created from the Spring_2026 file. If the value from Step 4 was "T" or "t" search only in the list of dictionaries created from the Fall_2026 file. If the value was "U" or "u" you must potentially search in all 3 lists.

A match is returned regardless of case; that is, "Wheaton", "wheaton", "WHEATON", and "wHEaTon" should all match the same name.

If the string entered by the user is NOT in the correct column in the list in which you are searching, (not in Any list if Step 4 provided "U" or "u") display an error message:

Sorry, <echo user input> was not enrolled in that semester.

Please enter a student last name.

Enter "Q" to return to the main menu.

If the student presses either "Q" or "q" return to Step 3. Otherwise, stay in this loop until the user enters a student last name that is actually in the appropriate list.

If the user enters a last name that matches exactly one student in the list, display the following message:

Student Last Name Student First Name Student ID Total Points Letter Grade

<print the values from columns 0, 1, 2, 10, and 11 for the record that matched>

What If the user enters a last name that matches more than one student? E.g., does the user mean Pierre Curie or Marie Curie? Sansa Stark or Arya Stark? If the last name appears more than once in the 2D list, you must ask the user to choose among the matches. Display a message similar to :

Please indicate the student for whom you are searching:

Enter 1 for: <student 1 first name> <Student 1 last name>

Enter 2 for: <student 2 first name><Student 2 last name>

Include all students with the matching last name. Here you will not worry about validating input. Presume the user will enter a valid value. Display the record as above for the selected student. That is, display

Student Last Name Student First Name Student ID Total Points Letter Grade

<print the values from columns 0, 1, 2, 10, and 11 for the record that matched>

Once you have displayed a valid record, go back to Step 3

Step 7:

Here, you process a request for a student grade, searching by student ID. This is actually easier than the last name search since an ID can match at most one student record. There is no disambiguation needed.

Prompt the user to enter the student ID of the student for whom the user is searching.

The user will enter a string. You will now search for this string in your database.

Your code was passed a value, read in Step 4, that indicates which semester the student was purportedly enrolled in the class. If the value from Step 4 was "F" or "f" search only in the list of dictionaries created from the Fall_2025 file. If the value from Step 4 was "S" or "s" search only in the list of dictionaries created from the Spring_2026 file. If the value from Step 4 was "T" or "t" search only in the list of dictionaries created from the Fall_2026 file. If the value was "U" or "u" you must potentially search in all lists.

Just as with last name, a match is returned regardless of case.

If the string entered by the user is NOT in the values of the dictionaries that are in the list in which you are searching, (not in the values in any dictionary in any list if Step 4 provided “U” or “u”) display an error message:

Sorry, <echo user input> was not enrolled in that semester.

Please enter a student ID..

Enter “Q” to return to the main menu.

If the student presses either “Q” or “q” return to Step 3. Otherwise, stay in this loop until the user enters a student ID that is actually in the appropriate list.

Once the user has entered a student ID that matches student in the list, display the following message:

Student Last Name Student First Name Student ID Total Points Letter Grade

<print the values from columns 0, 1, 2, 10, and 11 for the record that matched>

When you are finished displaying this message, go to Step 3.

Step 8:

Exit the program. Here, the user has chosen “Q” or “q” to exit the program. Print out a farewell message similar to the following. Again, you don’t have to use these exact words if you think you can be more poetic, but your message should convey the same idea.

Thank you for using the interactive student grade request service.

Hope to see you again soon.

Shutting down now.

Grading:

The 80 points for this project will be assigned as follows:

Factor	Points	Comments
Program Design	10	Program design follows good practice and is

		described by the student. Functions implement clear, logically unique parts of the program. Code is not repeated – e.g., the student does not have three separate code segments to read in the three files
Coding Standards	10	<p>Particular emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use of CONSTANTS, - no use of global variables in functions; - snake case for variable names; - meaningful function and variable names
Program Structure	30	<p>Main program structure. The main program should consist of setup and initialization code, and other than that mostly function calls</p> <p>Functions: At a minimum, the following should be implemented in functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reading in files. The students should have a function that takes a filename as a parameter, reads in the file, and returns the contents of the file. This function can either return the string containing the file contents less the two header lines in each file; OR it can call the function that creates the 2D list; takes the 2D list from that function; and then returns the 2D list to the main program. - creating the 2D list for each file. This should optimally be done in a separate function. It can be called by the function that reads files; OR it can be called by the main program. - Insert the new columns into each 2D list: column 6, with the sum of the project grades; column 10, with the total points; and column 11 with the letter grade. This can be done in a single function; though separate functions is acceptable. - Displaying the user menus. The students should call one or more functions to display the

		<p>user menu; get the user input; and display error messages or further results.</p> <p>Additional functions are acceptable if they make sense in the overall structure of the program.</p> <p>Comments: There should be a program header comment. Each function should be commented properly. Lines of code that collectively implement some operation should be set off by whitespace and commented.</p>
Correct Output	30	<p>The program must produce correct output for a variety of test cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student not found - Student found by last name, including resolving conflicts - Student found by ID number - Searching in a specific semester - Searching over all semesters - Quitting the program