

CS/LIS 472 S25 Group Projects

The group projects *only* apply to CS/LIS 472 students.

Purpose

The primary goal of group projects is to foster collaborative skills, deepen subject matter understanding, and encourage diverse perspectives in problem-solving. By working together, students learn to communicate effectively, delegate responsibilities, and resolve conflicts in a professional manner. These projects emphasize teamwork, time management, and accountability while allowing students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical challenges.

Additionally, group work promotes critical thinking and creativity by exposing students to different ideas and approaches, ultimately preparing them for dynamic, team-oriented environments in their academic and professional futures.

Logistics

Students can expect to work in groups of 3 to 4 students and spend **2 to 4 hours per week** on various activities related to the group project. Students may choose their team members; students who do not have a team will automatically be assigned a team based on their response to the Introduction Survey. Students can (but do not have to) change teams from project to project. However, students *must* work in groups; groups of 1 are *not* allowed unless provided an official McBurney Accommodation.

You are expected to be a contributing member to your team and the results from your peer evaluations **may ultimately change your grade for the project.**

Each group project will consist of deliverables including...

- A kickoff class detailing the project description and forming groups.
- A 1-page proposal document outlining the website that will be made.
- An initial draft version of the proposed website.
- A check-in with course staff related to the draft version.
- A final version of the proposed website.
- A presentation of the completed work.
- A peer evaluation of both team members and other groups.

Please Note: Group project milestones are *strict* and *cannot* be completed late. You *must* turn in your work by 11:59 PM of the listed deadline; late submissions will *not* be accepted.

CMS Project

The CMS project will focus on building a website using WordPress.

Expectations

Groups will collaboratively choose the specific domain, focus, and content of their WordPress website but, *at a minimum*, it will include...

- The use of a non-default theme (e.g. *not* Twenty-Twenty Five, Twenty-Twenty Four, etc.).
- The use of at least 3 plugins that add new, meaningful behavior to the website.
- The creation of at least 7 pages, each of which contain at least 12 blocks.
- The creation of at least 5 posts, each of which contain at least 7 blocks.
- The introduction of at least 3 new design patterns (either synced or unsynced).
- The modification of the primary navigation bar to thoughtfully help the user navigate.
- The customization of other WordPress settings such as user registration, permalink scheme, comments and moderation, or anything else relevant to your site.
- The utilization of some custom HTML, CSS, and/or JS in some aspect of the website.

Beyond this, it is also expected that the website will include...

- The thoughtful use of design and organization of content.
- An accessible experience, meeting [WCAG - A standards](#).
- A responsive layout, adapting to phone, tablet, and desktop devices.

The final deliverable must be a professional, well-executed website that demonstrates the above deliverables and could be seen as a “real” site on the web. Put pride into your work! :)

Ideas

Groups may collaboratively decide what they develop a website for. As long as the website will be able to achieve the above outcomes, anything appropriate is fair game (pending final approval from course staff). Some examples may include...

- A **promotional website** that focuses on a specific event (e.g., a concert, charity run, or conference). This may feature information about the event, an event schedule, ticket purchase links, and a countdown timer!
- A **club website** that conveys information about an organization you are a part of. This may feature information about the club, an upcoming events list, set of beliefs and values, and membership inquiry form!
- A **travel website** that shows the experiences that you and your group members have embarked on. This may feature information about your favorite destinations, reviews, and a chance for interaction with visitors via the comment section.

Milestones

The following milestones are tentative and subject to change...

Milestone	Date	Details / Purpose
Kickoff	2/3/2025	Present project description, form groups.
Proposal	2/12/2025	Feedback provided by the following week.
Draft Website	2/26/2025	Initial website to review with TA the following week.
TA Check-In	3/3 - 3/7/2025	Get feedback on your design & implementation.
Final Website	3/17/2025	Submit the website and report.
Presentation	3/19/2025	5 minutes per group demonstrating your work.
Peer Reflections	3/31/2025	Reflect on your peers and other groups.

Deliverables

The CMS project is worth 10 points broken down as follows...

Milestone	Points
Proposal	1
Draft Website	2
Final Website	4
Presentation	2
Peer Reflections	1

HTML/CSS/JS Project

The HTML/CSS/JS project will focus on building a website using HTML/CSS/JS.

Expectations

Groups will collaboratively choose the specific domain, focus, and content of their HTML/CSS/JS website but, *at a minimum*, it will include...

- A README.md file accurately explaining the purpose of the website.
- The consistent use of Git and GitHub for version control and publication.
- The consistent use of a CSS library, such as [Bootstrap](#).
- The creation of a global stylesheet linked to all HTML pages.
- The creation of at least 7 HTML pages, each of which contain links to their own individual CSS and JS files.
- The use of at least 3 HTML tags not discussed in class.
- The use of JavaScript to dynamically update at least 3 webpages.
- The use of a form and user input to control the content of at least 1 page.
- The use of sessionStorage, localStorage, or cookies to persist some data.
- The use of fetch to dynamically load in data from an external source.
- The documentation of code, especially segments that are complex and/or confusing.
- The demonstration of semantically and syntactically valid HTML, CSS, and JS.

Beyond this, it is also expected that the website will include...

- The thoughtful use of design and organization of content.
- An accessible experience, meeting [WCAG - A standards](#).
- A responsive layout, adapting to phone, tablet, and desktop devices.

The final deliverable must be a professional, well-executed website that demonstrates the above deliverables and could be seen as a “real” site on the web. Put pride into your work! :)

Ideas

Groups may collaboratively decide what they develop a website for. As long as the website will be able to achieve the above outcomes, anything appropriate is fair game (pending final approval from course staff). Some examples may include...

- An **online learning platform** that focuses on helping users learn a specific topic. This may feature a media player, answerable quiz questions, personal progress report, and achievements.
- An **e-commerce store** that sells some product(s). This may feature a list of products, user reviews and ratings, a shopping cart, and a checkout feature,
- A **news website** that displays the latest news articles to a user. This may feature a list of news articles that can be searched, sorted, and filtered. It may also include the ability for a user to save certain articles for later.

Milestones

The following milestones are tentative and subject to change...

Milestone	Date	Details / Purpose
Kickoff	3/31/2025	Present project description, form groups.
Proposal	4/2/2025	Feedback provided by the following week.
Draft Website	4/16/2025	Initial website to review with TA the following week.
TA Check-In	4/21 - 4/25/2025	Get feedback on your design & implementation.
Final Website	5/2/2025	Submit the website and report.
Presentation	5/2/2025	5 minutes per group demonstrating your work. Recording will be done virtually
Peer Reflection	5/8/2025	Reflect on your peers and other groups.

Deliverables

The HTML/CSS/JS project is worth 15 points broken down as follows...

Milestone	Points
Proposal	1
Draft Website	4
Final Website	7
Presentation	2
Peer Reflections	1

