

# Undergraduate Research Instructions

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## Monthly Meetings and Reports

- **Schedule:** We will hold meetings in the first week of each month from August through December to discuss progress and plan for the next steps.
- **Duration and Structure of Meetings:**
  - Each meeting will last two hours, divided as follows:
    - 10 minutes: Cow Judging
    - 10 minutes: Cow Time Budgeting
    - 10 minutes: Edge Computing
    - 25 minutes: Pig Nursery Behavior
    - 25 minutes: Equine Well-being
    - 40 minutes: Open discussion
- **Presentation Requirements:**
  - From the second meeting (in September) onward, each student is required to present their work:
    - Individual projects: 3-5 slides.
    - Group projects: 8-10 slides recommended.
- **Reporting:** After each meeting, students must send the revised slides based on feedback to the advisor, James Chen. These will serve as the monthly report for grading.
- **Additional Meetings:** Students are encouraged to schedule additional meetings with James Chen between the monthly gatherings to enhance the effectiveness of the main meetings.

## Grading Criteria

- **Communication Skills (60%):**
  - Responsiveness to emails and Teams messages (check twice daily during working hours).
  - Ability to work collaboratively within a team.
  - Capability to explain work and challenges to laypersons, such as your advisor.
  - Skill in providing and receiving constructive feedback.
- **Work Ethic (24%):**
  - Consistent attendance and active participation in all meetings.
  - Supportive interaction with project participants, including advisors.
- **Research Quality (16%):**
  - Clarity and relevance of the research question.
  - Feasibility of the proposed approach in real-world settings.
  - Timely completion of assigned tasks, with well-justified reasons for any delays.
  - Reproducibility of results.

## Additional Information

- **Work Commitment:** Research credit hours are equivalent to lab hours. Students are expected to work 3 hours per week for each credit hour. For example, 2 credit hours require 6 hours of work per week.
- **Compensation:** Students will be paid \$17 per hour. However, failure to meet the above criteria may result in termination of payment.
- **Early Start and Summer Opportunities:** Students interested in starting the project early or seeking summer training should contact me to discuss available paid internships.
- **Team Dynamics:** For projects involving multiple students, there is no hierarchy based on capabilities, performance, or power, even if a student is designated as the project lead. The project lead's role is to coordinate the team and keep the project on track, but all members are encouraged to contribute as much as their time and abilities allow.