

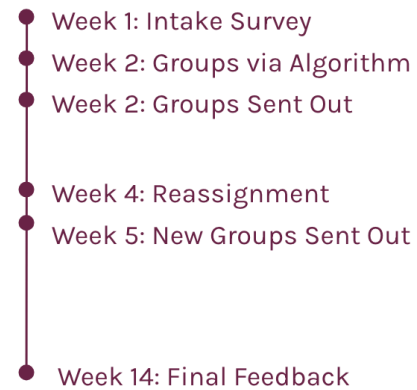
Study Groups Tool

Brief Overview and Timeline:

Steps for creating groups:

1. Design intake survey
2. Release intake survey and collect student responses
3. Generate study groups using our group-matching algorithm
4. Send students their groups
5. Conduct re-assignment once or multiple times in a semester
6. Collect end-of-semester feedback from students

Timeline for a 16-week semester:



Detailed Overview and Timeline

Steps for creating groups:

First week of class

1. Design intake survey
 - a. Make a copy of the “Intake Survey” linked in our github repo
 - b. Adapt the survey to reflect any updates to the matching criteria that you would like to use when creating groups (any edits must also be reflected in the code)
 - c. The intake survey includes a request for consent of release of information to the study groups team (optional, if course is willing to volunteer to help us with our research)
 - d. We recommend releasing the survey on a platform or course material that is easily accessible to all students

Second week of class

2. Release intake survey and collect student responses
3. Generate study groups using our group-matching algorithm
 - a. Detailed instructions in our github README
4. Send students their groups
 - a. An easy way to do this is using the YAMM tool (instructions in our github README)

⅓ into the semester, can be repeated ⅔ into the semester

5. Conduct re-assignment once or multiple times in a semester
 - a. Repeat steps 1-4 with the “Reassignment Survey” linked in our github

Final week of class

6. Collect end-of-semester feedback from students
 - a. Make a copy of the “Feedback Survey” linked in our github

- b. Adapt the survey to reflect any desired updates

Materials

You can find everything you need to create groups in our github repository linked here: [Github link](#)

YAMM info:

- [Link](#) to download YAMM
- Our compatible YAMM script can be found in our github repository

FAQs

What are some key features of the group matching script?

- Our study group generation tool is able to adapt to any matching criteria that can be described with a survey question. This means the tool can match students based on similar answers to questions such as:
 - Which discussion times they attend
 - Experience level
 - Current year (freshman, sophomore, etc)
 - Demographics
 - Whether they would be willing to take point in organizing the group
 - When they start assignments
 - How much effort they wish to put into the course
 - Etc
- The tool can be used to have students report their own groups to course staff, as well as match students that haven't formed groups previously
- The tool can also be used to have students report <4 other students they want to be matched with, while still being matched with other students in the class they don't already know
- Our tool also intentionally prioritizes grouping students of demographics that are typically under-represented in classrooms, to ensure they have at least one other student of similar racial and/or gender identity in their group based on research indicating that students feel more comfortable participating in academic groups with at least one other student of similar backgrounds and cultures.

Do I have to use demographic matching?

You do not have to enable the demographic matching of students, but we highly recommend leaving it enabled. Research has indicated that students from minority demographics may be more likely to suffer from feelings of isolation and discomfort in the classroom, which is found to be negatively associated with student performance in the classroom. Whether or not receiving a community of similar demographics in a

classroom may improve their academic performance is still a topic being researched today, and we intend to conduct analysis on this impact - we're more able to do so if you allow the script to match students in this background-sensitive way! :)

Contact

Please email ucb-group-matching@berkeley.edu if you have any more questions!