Professionalism

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# The student is becoming a more professional protégé by interacting professionally with the instructor via questions, expositions, etc.

I’ve really enjoyed our interactions this semester. I really appreciate how the focus has been on really learning something during this class, and not just “getting the grade”. During the beginning of the semester I turned in coding topics very regularly and was able to follow my schedule I submitted on week 2. Some of my early assignments such as JSON and AJAX was even shared with the class.

A week or two after that, I submitted the DOM fluency evidence which wasn’t quite up to par. You gave some good feedback about some additional functions I should use, which I was able to implement and re-submit to get a 10/10. This pattern was followed for several other documents.

During week 7, I was a little two ambitious with my schedule and fell a little behind. But, I was able to come up with a fun idea to get include a several fluency topics all at once and caught up. My only outstanding fluency review without a 10/10 score is CSS3 transitions, which I plan on resolving this week.

# The student is becoming a more professional mentor by interacting professionally and helpfully with other teams by teaching and sharing

I have to say, I had a great team this semester. Ben, David, Clayton and Cam really have been a great group to work with. They were very on the ball for the majority of the time and when they weren’t, we had a good enough understanding of each other to help each other out.

I signed up for, and was able teach on weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8. The topics that I taught were JavaScript, AJAX, Local storage and CSS3 Using JavaScript. All of the slideshows that I created for the presentations are stored in the Files section of our group (CIT 361 Programing Team 1) for easy access to the team. They can also be downloaded from their respective folders from my [Github page](https://github.com/rdockstader/BYUI-CS/tree/master/CIT261).

# The student is becoming a more professional mentor by supporting their team by teaching and advising them, and performing work outside of team meetings

I had an amazing team, and not a lot of questions really came up. When they did come up someone on our team was able to answer them. David seems to have a pretty decent amount of web experience under his belt, and Cam has been a software developer for sometime as well. I really enjoy web development and design, and was able to chip in with some answers throughout the meetings on the few times they came up.

As far as a mentorship goes, my brother Cam and I often talk about development topics. In the beginning of the semester he was kind of struggling with the format of the class. Since I had a pretty good start with the fluency reviews I was able to answer several questions that he had about how to submit them, what they were supposed to look like, etc. Around week 3 he was considering dropping the class to focus on his other school work better, but he was able to ask a few questions that really helped to speed up the process (such as you allowing us to submit the info through comments instead of the template) quite a bit, and he is now on track.

# The student is becoming a more professional protégé and mentor by applying self-reflection and meta-cognition

So, I want to start out by saying that I have been pretty discouraged with school this semester. Up to now, I’ve been in some more code focused classes, and I have **really** enjoyed them. But this semester I signed up for one of the foundation religion classes, Software Engineering I (which doesn’t have you writing even a single line of code) and this class. So, this was my only coding focused class and it was HTML CSS and JS, which I wasn’t expecting to learn anything exciting and new from. It was one of those times in life where you have to decide to lean on your determination to finish or drop out.

Since I’m still here it might be obvious to state that I decided to lean on my determination. And, I’m actually glad that I did. My religion class has been about the Book of Mormon, which like any good book has been nice to dive back into. I’m trying to keep this positive, so I’m not going to mention the Software Engineering I class anymore. But, the class that made this entire semester interesting has really been this class. Partially because of the coding topics, but also because of the interactions I’ve had with my team, and with the instructor.

Let’s start with the team. It has been really refreshing to be with a team of people that are here to be a part of the team. Each member has taught me quite a bit about professionalism. Ben really stepped up and took leadership of the group. He made some quick decisions (that we all agreed with) that got us started on the right foot. We had to adjust the time part way through the semester because of some scheduling conflicts, and he was the one that brought that up. I could see him leading a team of software engineers in the future. He taught me that it doesn’t have to take a lot to step up and make suggestions, and that if there is a need to be filled (like a person willing to make decisions effecting other people) then it’s a good thing to step up, take some ownership, and fulfill that need.

David taught me that it’s important to approach answers with humility, but not giving off the impression that your unsure. He did a great job of answering questions without making anyone feel like they had less knowledge, but still knowing that you were being given the correct answer.

Cam and Clayton both helped me learn about perseverance. Clayton isn’t the most familiar with the coding topics at hand, but he found resources and learned for himself, so he could present that information to the team. Cam has a pretty good background in these topics but is limited on time with his other responsibilities in life. He has really stuck it out, and is still planning on continuing his education until he gets the degree.

Finally, you have taught me that professionalism has more to do with interaction then it does with presentation. Being able to submit my coding topics through comments, while adding in a fun comic or something, has been a game changer for me. It’s really showed me that professional interactions can be fun and are often very helpful. It also allowed me to be concise in my submissions and receive very clear and helpful feedback.

Another thing that I learned is that the timing of things and honoring the commits you have made is very important. This was taught to me through the coding topics schedule, group meetings, and the timely manner that I received a grade and feedback on my fluency submissions.

I am currently applying these lessons in my work. I work as a solutions architect and I end up answering a lot of questions on our applications, how to do things, and processes surrounding our duties in the Support Department. I’ve tried to be humbler, and confident in my answers when I’m asked questions. I make sure to start my day with a goal in mind and work hard and persevere through problems until I reach that goal. I take ownership of the processes we have in our group and apply them and encourage others to apply them as well. And, I really try to make sure each interaction I have is one that is fun and helpful to at least one party involved.

These application spill into my home, school, and church life as well. Focusing on these things has really made me a lot happier with life in general and get a lot more fulfilment out of a lot of the things I’m doing. Even Software Engineering I has been a lot more bearable when I focus on helping my team in that class out, and less on the fact that I’m not super happy we’re not focusing more on coding topics.