



VCU

College of Engineering

CS 25-332 AI tool for automated scanning and
understanding of new scientific or technical
posts and alerting about new information
relevant to user's interests

Team Contract

Prepared for

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Step 1: Get to Know One Another. Gather Basic Information.

Task: This initial time together is important to form a strong team dynamic and get to know each other more as people outside of class time. Consider ways to develop positive working relationships with others, while remaining open and personal. Learn each other's strengths and discuss good/bad team experiences. This is also a good opportunity to start to better understand each other's communication and working styles.

<i>Team Member Name</i>	<i>Strengths each member bring to the group</i>	<i>Other Info</i>	<i>Contact Info</i>
Kyle Vinod	Communicates well with everyone, plans out meeting and communicates with advisor, deterministic	1 year internship experience, knowledgeable with Python, C, C++, Java, SQL, JavaScript, and Linux, knowledge of NLP and machine learning	vinodkn@vcu.edu
Katie Martinez	Communication, problem-solving, and adaptability	Experience in Java and C.	martinezk4@vcu.edu
Ryan Ta	Clear communication, willing to learn new things, wide availability	I have experience in C and Java. I will put the work in to learn anything new assigned to me.	tard@vcu.edu
Alexander Larios	Fast comprehension, clear communication, wide and strong curiosity, and creative generativity.	Experienced in C, Java, and Python. Good grip on the overarching fundamentals to the project.	Lariosas@vcu.edu

<i>Other Stakeholders</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Contact Info</i>
Tom Arodz	Faculty advisor and sponsor	tarodz@vcu.edu

Step 2: Team Culture. Clarify the Group's Purpose and Culture Goals.

Task: Discuss how each team member wants to be treated to encourage them to make valuable contributions to the group and how each team member would like to feel recognized for their efforts. Discuss how the team will foster an environment where each team member feels they are accountable for their actions and the way they contribute to the project. These are your Culture Goals (left column). How do the students demonstrate these culture goals? These are your Actions (middle column). Finally, how do students deviate from the team's culture goals? What are ways that other team members can notice when that culture goal is no longer being honored in team dynamics? These are your Warning Signs (right column).

Resources: More information and an example Team Culture can be found in the Biodesign Student Guide "Intentional Teamwork" page ([webpage](#) | [PDF](#))

<i>Culture Goals</i>	<i>Actions</i>	<i>Warning Signs</i>
<i>Communicating well within the group</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Texting within Capstone group chat</i>- <i>Communicating any problems help is needed with</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>No text back in group chat in few days</i>- <i>Student struggles with a part of the project with deadline coming up</i>
<i>Respectful communication</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Encourage open discussions</i>- <i>Use constructive feedback</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Talking over others</i>- <i>Dismissive tone</i>
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Share regular progress updates- Set clear deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Missed tasks- Avoiding progress discussions

Step 3: Time Commitments, Meeting Structure, and Communication

Task: Discuss the anticipated time commitments for the group project. Consider the following questions (don't answer these questions in the box below):

- What are reasonable time commitments for everyone to invest in this project?
- What other activities and commitments do group members have in their lives?
- How will we communicate with each other?
- When will we meet as a team? Where will we meet? How Often?
- Who will run the meetings? Will there be an assigned team leader or scribe? Does that position rotate or will same person take on that role for the duration of the project?

Required: How often you will meet with your faculty advisor, where you will meet, and how the meetings will be conducted. Who arranges these meetings?
See examples below.

<i>Meeting Participants</i>	<i>Frequency Dates and Times / Locations</i>	<i>Meeting Goals Responsible Party</i>
<i>Students Only</i>	<i>As needed, we text within the group chat</i>	<i>Update group on day-to-day challenges and accomplishments</i>
<i>Students Only</i>	<i>Every Thursday at 3 pm, we meet on Zoom</i>	<i>Actively work on project, discuss any problems, update group, and discuss new tasks</i>
<i>Students + Faculty advisor</i>	<i>Every Tuesday at 10:30 am in Advisor's Zoom meeting</i>	<i>Update faculty advisor and get answers to our questions</i>
<i>Project Sponsor</i>	<i>Every Tuesday at 10:30 am in Sponsor's Zoom meeting</i>	<i>Update project sponsor and make sure we are on the right track</i>

Step 4: Determine Individual Roles and Responsibilities

Task: As part of the Capstone Team experience, each member will take on a leadership role, **in addition to** contributing to the overall weekly action items for the project. Some common leadership roles for

Capstone projects are listed below. Other roles may be assigned with approval of your faculty advisor as deemed fit for the project. For the entirety of the project, you should communicate progress to your advisor specifically with regard to your role.

- **Before meeting with your team**, take some time to ask yourself: what is my “natural” role in this group (strengths)? How can I use this experience to help me grow and develop more?
- **As a group**, discuss the various tasks needed for the project and role preferences. Then assign roles in the table on the next page. Try to create a team dynamic that is fair and equitable, while promoting the strengths of each member.

Communication Leaders

Suggested: Assign a team member to be the primary contact for the client/sponsor. This person will schedule meetings, send updates, and ensure deliverables are met.

Suggested: Assign a team member to be the primary contact for faculty advisor. This person will schedule meetings, send updates, and ensure deliverables are met.

Common Leadership Roles for Capstone

1. **Project Manager:** Manages all tasks; develops overall schedule for project; writes agendas and runs meetings; reviews and monitors individual action items; creates an environment where team members are respected, take risks and feel safe expressing their ideas.
Required: On Edusourced, under the Team tab, make sure that this student is assigned the Project Manager role. This is required so that Capstone program staff can easily identify a single contact person, especially for items like Purchasing and Receiving project supplies.
2. **Logistics Manager:** coordinates all internal and external interactions; lead in establishing contact within and outside of organization, following up on communication of commitments, obtaining information for the team; documents meeting minutes; manages facility and resource usage.
3. **Financial Manager:** researches/benchmarks technical purchases and acquisitions; conducts pricing analysis and budget justifications on proposed purchases; carries out team purchase requests; monitors team budget.
4. **Systems Engineer:** analyzes Client initial design specification and leads establishment of product specifications; monitors, coordinates and manages integration of sub-systems in the prototype; develops and recommends system architecture and manages product interfaces.
5. **Test Engineer:** oversees experimental design, test plan, procedures and data analysis; acquires data acquisition equipment and any necessary software; establishes test protocols and schedules; oversees statistical analysis of results; leads presentation of experimental finding and resulting recommendations.
6. **Manufacturing Engineer:** coordinates all fabrication required to meet final prototype requirements; oversees that all engineering drawings meet the requirements of machine shop or vendor; reviews designs to ensure design for manufacturing; determines realistic timing for fabrication and quality; develops schedule for all manufacturing.

<i>Team Member</i>	<i>Role(s)</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<i>Kyle</i>	<i>Project manager, Logistics manager</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Help with assigning different tasks and help with each as needed</i> ✓ <i>Schedule meetings with team members, advisor, and sponsor</i> ✓ <i>Team members are comfortable and able to present their ideas</i>
<i>Ryan</i>	<i>Financial manager and Systems Engineer</i>	<i>Planning out purchases that need to be made and analyzing how it will fit into our budget.</i> <i>Working with client requests to ensure that their specifications are incorporated into the final product.</i>
Katie	Manufacturing Engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing deadlines with suppliers/vendors. - Ensuring designs meet manufacturability and quality standards. - Continuous process improvement and troubleshooting. - Strong focus on practical, hands-on production knowledge and process efficiency.
Alexander Larios	Test engineer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing and managing experimental design. - Testing, producing, and overseeing analysis. - Leading presentation of experimental finding and recommendations.

Step 5: Agree to the above team contract

Team Member: Kyle Vinod

Signature: Kyle Vinod

Team Member: Ryan Ta

Signature: Ryan Ta

Team Member: Katie Martinez

Signature: Katie Martinez

Team Member: Alexander Larios

Signature: Alexander