FAQ – Machine Learning - 202526

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Group Projects

What is the maximum size of a project group?

A project group should consist of a maximum of 4 members.

Is it possible to have a group with fewer than 4 members?

Yes, groups can have between 3 and 4 members. However, it is important to note that smaller group sizes will result in a greater workload for each individual.

How do I join a group?

You can enroll in a group through Moodle using the designated platform. If you did not manage to find group members, please select the option "***I want to do the Project but have not found a team***".

When is the deadline for enrolling in a group?

You must enroll in a group by October 3rd. After this date, enrollment through Moodle will no longer be possible. If you have not enrolled by then, you will be assigned to a group. No changes are allowed after the assignment. If you do not select any option, you will be randomly assigned with other students who have not selected any option (and thus are more likely to not be committed to completing the project and course).

Is it possible to create a group with members from different classes (for example, P1 and P2)?

Yes, you can form a group with members from different classes.

We created a group of 3 members, but after the enrollment deadline, a new member was added to our group. Can we still keep only the 3 members?

After the enrollment deadline, students who don't have a group will be assigned to other groups. As a result, while we will try to avoid creating these situations while we can, it is possible that your group of 3 members could be converted into a group of 4 members (since the maximum number of students in a group is 4). No changes are allowed, and the project must be completed by all 4 members.

What should I do if I am unable to find colleagues to form a group with?

If you are unable to find colleagues to form a group with, you can participate in the "Find your group" discussion forum on Moodle. Alternatively, select the option "***I want to do the Project but have not found a team***". If you are still without a group by the enrollment deadline, you will be placed in a group with other members in the same situation. **All groups that, after the deadline, are "registered" as having less than 3 members will also be considered for the formation of these groups.**

Am I obligated to always do the project?

Yes, the project is a mandatory evaluation, and in order to achieve success in the course. Failure to deliver and defend it implies automatic failure in the course.

I already did the project(s) in a previous year, but I failed at the course. Can I freeze the project grade this year?

Depends. If you did the project in the year that immediately preceded the current one, you can request your grade to be frozen by selecting the appropriate option in the group selection menu (until October 3rd). However, if you did the project 2 or more years ago or fail to select the option, then you will be ineligible for this option and will need to join a group.

Is participation in the oral defense mandatory?

Yes, participation in the oral defense is mandatory. Failure to participate will result in a failure in the course.

What are the deliverables of the project?

The project deliverables are divided in 2 stages. First, you will have a project handout meant to be delivered by 18:00 of November 3rd. Then, the full project notebook(s) need to be delivered by 18:00 of December 22nd. There will be parallel competition on Kaggle with the same deadline (you do not have to submit the predictions to us, but you will need to have a submission to Kaggle by then to be eligible for the Kaggle points).

What will be covered in the oral discussion?

The discussion will be a cell-by-cell presentation of your final version of the project. During the presentation the group members needs to explain the rationale behind that cell (e.g. what is its goal, what does it do and, if applicable, what are the key takeaways). During the presentation, the professors may interrupt and ask questions and it is expected that only the individual being questioned will answer. The questions may cover various aspects of the project, including the reasoning behind the configurations selected or theoretical concepts that underlie those configurations. **Any technique/package/algorithm introduced that was not covered class needs to be explained assuming the audience does not know it.**

Is there an opportunity to retake the oral discussion?

No, there is no opportunity for a retake of the oral defense. The oral defense is a one-time event.

When is the oral discussion scheduled to occur?

The oral discussions will take place during the exam season and will be scheduled as soon as possible. Depending on the number of groups, these may occur on different days for different groups.

Is it possible to receive a different grade than my group members for the project?

Yes, it is possible. The evaluation of the group project will be primarily based on the submitted notebooks. However, your grade may (and likely will) differ from your colleagues if it is determined during the oral discussion that your level of understanding and contribution to the project is not equal to that of your group members. In such cases, your grade may be higher or lower than the grade assigned to the overall project depending on your individual performance.

In my group, only some of us have done all the work. The others did not appear or barely worked at any part of the project. What can I do?

Please let us know about this as soon as possible. In the event that a member or members of your group have not fulfilled their obligations, it is imperative that you bring this issue to our attention immediately. Depending on the timing of your report and the specific circumstances, there are two potential courses of action that may be taken:

1. Your colleagues may be instructed to complete the project on their own, and you may be paired with other individuals from another group who are facing similar issues.
2. The group may remain intact until the end. Any disparities in participation and contribution will be assessed during the oral discussion and through anonymous peer evaluations and self-evaluations.

Any issues within the group must be promptly addressed to ensure a fair and equitable distribution of workload and a successful outcome for the project.

In my group some of us have done different parts of the project. Are we going to be evaluated with the same grade?

While it may be common practice for some groups to divide the project amongst themselves, each member must comprehensively understand all the aspects addressed in the project. This will be evaluated during the oral discussion, and it is not acceptable to respond with "*I wasn't involved in that part of the work*" or *"I'm not sure, ChatGPT wrote it"*, as this will result in a penalization of your grade. In **fact, this will be tested during the discussion since the order in which students present will be defined by the teaching staff.**

Will the project pass through a process of plagiarism tracking?

Yes, the project will undergo a thorough process of plagiarism detection. This will include a scan of online resources and an evaluation of projects from previous years. The code will be subjected to this examination to ensure the authenticity of the submitted work.

Does using LLMs count as cheating?

While there is increasing evidence that delegating too many tasks to LLMs acritically has a detrimental effect to learning and skill development, due to its widespread use we do not believe that forbidding its use entirely would be (i) advisable or (ii) reliably enforceable.

Having said all this, even though the use of ChatGPT to assist in code writing during your project is not strictly forbidden, **you are ultimately responsible for every single line of code written and are expected to understand it does if asked.**

If I fail the project, is there a second delivery?

No, there is only one delivery opportunity for the project. Therefore, if you are unsuccessful in the project, you will have to repeat the course in the following academic year.

Evaluation

What is the weight of the project, the exam and the quizzes in determining the final grade?

To determine the weight of each evaluation in the final grade, you must consult the subject's syllabus or Curricular Unit File (CUF) available on Moodle.

If I try to obtain a better grade on the 2nd term exam and get a worse grade, which will prevail?

The grade that will prevail is always the best one.

I got 16.495 on the final grade, but the final grade is 16. Shouldn't it be 17?

It's important to note that, while the partial grades, such as those from projects, exams, and other evaluations, are recorded with decimal places, the final grade is rounded to the nearest whole number. So, in this scenario, your final grade will be recorded as 16, based on the rounded value of 16.495 to 0 decimal places.

What is the minimum grade for the exam?

The minimum grade for the exam is 8.00.

What is the minimum grade for the project?

The minimum grade for the project is 5.00. This cap refers exclusively to the final project delivery.

I got less than 5 in my Handout (yes, it happens). How does this affect my project grade?

The handout accounts for 10% of the final grade in the course. If, worst case scenario, your group does not deliver a handout you get 0 on this component but are not automatically excluded from completing the course. Moreover, your project's final grade does not factor any component related with the handout.

Can I go to the 2nd term exam even if I did not complete the enrollment on NETPA / Academic Services?

In order to take the 2nd term exam, you must complete the enrollment process on NETPA or Academic Services. If you do not complete the enrollment, your name will not appear on the student list in NETPA, and as a result, we will not be able to submit your exam grade.