



CSCI 4620U&G / SOFE 4850U Group Project Roadmap



Part 1a – Individual Introductions – Sept 10 (participation)

Introduce yourself to the class, suggest some project topics on Blackboard.

Part 1b – Project Proposal – Sept 18 (1% for submitting; must submit to proceed)

Propose your group project topic to the TA for approval.

Part 2a – Requirements Analysis Plan & Research Instruments – Oct 5 (5%)

Submit your research plan for gaining an understanding of your stakeholders, their needs, and their current technology. Give a rationale for your chosen methods. Submit copies of the research instruments (interview protocol, observation plans, questionnaires, etc.) that you plan to use.

Part 2b – Stakeholder Needs & System Requirements Report – Oct 19 (9%)

Analyze the data collected using your research instruments and prepare a report outlining the needs of your target stakeholder group(s) in relation to your project topic, and the requirements for your interface that result from this needs analysis.

Part 3a – Conceptual Design, Functionality, and Scenarios – Oct 30 (7%)

Prepare conceptual sketches, outlines of functionality, and scenarios describing typical use cases. Justify your design decisions with reflection on your needs & requirements report (2b).

Part 3b – Interaction Design & Prototypes – Nov 23 (13%)

Expand on the conceptual design and information design to include interactivity. Create two prototypes (at least one software prototype) which reflect your design to a sufficient extent for testing.

Part 4a – Project Presentation – Nov 28 (3%)

As a group, present your project to the class, describing how you came to understand the needs of your stakeholders, the motivation behind the design of your prototype(s), and what you learned from the evaluation.

Part 4b – Evaluation – Dec 3 (7%)

Design and carry out an evaluation which will help you assess the usability and usefulness of your design and prototypes. Report on implications of the evaluation for the next iteration of design.

Group Project Grading Policy

To recognize that some students contribute very differently to group work, and to fairly assign grades, the following two options are available. It is expected that a well-functioning group will use the equal contribution route, and a poorly functioning group will contact the TA or instructor for guidance before using the unequal contribution assessment. **All unequal contribution adjustments are at the discretion of the professor.**

Option 1: Equal Contribution (most common)

- Submit a one-line declaring equal contribution.
- Everyone gets the same mark.

Option 2: Unequal Contribution (use rarely)

If possible, contact the TA or professor as soon as group conflict or unequal contribution arises. If, at the end of a group assignment, members of the group feel the contribution was unequal, you may submit the following:

In the appendix:

- Include a list with all the parts of the project broken down and columns with checkmarks for each group member

AND By email *from each student individually*:

- Submit a **zero-sum** percentage adjustment, including yourself, e.g.:
 - John + 20%, Robyn + 30%, Caleb -50%, Sehar 0% = 0%

If the adjustments from each student roughly agree, marks will distributed accordingly, otherwise we will meet to discuss it.

For example, if everyone agrees on the distribution above, and the group grade is 75% to start, the resulting grades will be:

$$\text{John} = 75\% + (75 * 0.2) = 90\%$$

$$\text{Robyn} = 75\% + (75 * 0.3) = 97.5\%$$

$$\text{Caleb} = 75\% - (75 * 0.5) = 37.5\%$$

$$\text{Sehar} = 75\%$$

Note that grades are capped at 0% and 100%

After the first submission of unequal contribution reports, they will no longer be accepted without prior discussion and approval of the professor (i.e. you must contact the professor for help resolving the problem in advance of the due date).