

CSCI 2271 Computer Systems Grading Policy

Homeworks are graded on a scale from 1 to 100. The following gives the characteristics of each grade.

GRADE	CHARACTERISTICS
100	Perfect
95	Nicely done, but has one or two simple (often trivial) problems that got overlooked. I am confident that you understand the material well, so that you could easily fix the errors if you saw them. Still worth an "A".
90	Nearly perfect, but there is something that you didn't do right. This could be due to sloppiness (resulting in a lot of little mistakes), a confusion about what had to be done (in other words, you did the wrong thing, but nicely), or a minor misunderstanding of the material. Essentially, an "A-" job.
85	Your work was good for the most part, but there was one portion of the assignment that you just didn't get. Worth a "B".
80	Your work was good, but there were two (maybe three) portions of the assignment that you did badly on. It is clear that you struggled a lot to do the assignment, but there were things that you never figured out. The assignment often has an "average", nondescript feel to it, with nothing especially spectacular. Worth a "B-".
75	There is significant misunderstanding of the material here. Most of the assignment is done, but there are major problems with portions of it. People who hand in this kind of assignment tend to have a lot of frustration about the material in general, and are usually stuck on something. Worth a "C".
70	You are getting lost. You got the easy parts of the assignment, but had trouble with most everything else. The assignment shows a fair amount of effort, but no results. Worth a "C-".
below 70	You are either getting really lost, or you don't care. In either case, things are obviously going badly. It's time to visit the professor.

I will take points off for four reasons:

- *Syntactic Correctness*: Does your program compile? **Code that does not compile loses an immediate 30 points.** Nobody should ever submit code that does not compile.
- *Semantic Correctness*: To what extent does the program work on all inputs?
- *Readability*: Is the execution flow easy to follow? Are the variables appropriately named? Is the intent of your code commented when it is not obvious?

It is often hard to judge the severity of a mistake. A small typo can sometimes cause an otherwise correct program to bomb, and a working program might be so badly written that its correctness is a fluke. I use my experience to determine how much your program is worth. Every case is different, and sometimes (especially if there are several things wrong) one has to make a calculated judgment about what grade to give. In general, the more perfect your assignment is, the easier it is to give an accurate grade.

Late assignments will lose 5 points for each day late, up until the due date of the next assignment. At that point I will post the assignment's solution.