CS798H: 2025
Project Milestone-2

Focus of this milestone:

Build on Milestone-1 by conducting needfinding and documenting user needs. This milestone will focus on gathering insights, identifying key pain points, and setting the foundation for design and prototyping in the next phase. For teams working on requirements and engineering, this milestone also includes defining system requirements, designing initial screens, and selecting the technology stack.

Project Breakdown & Milestones:

Break the project down three phases:

1. **Milestone-2 (Due: End of this week)** – Needfinding and user research. For engineering-focused teams: Requirements, screen designs, and tech stack selection. You should have started on this by now, so put this together.

2. **Milestone-3 (Due: April 15th)** – Prototyping based on needfinding results / initial engineering implementation for the engineering focused teams / a logical section.

3. **Final Milestone, as part of presentation and report (Due: May 1st)** – Evaluation of prototypes, analysis of results, final engineering refinements, and project submission.

Milestone-2 Deliverables (1 PDF per team):

1. Project Overview

- Reiterate team member names and roles.

- Summarize the overall goap and project scope as refined from Milestone-1.

- Describe any modifications made to the initial scope based on early research findings.

2. Needfinding Results

- Conduct needfinding using at least one method (Interviews, Surveys, Observations, Review Analysis, Diary Studies). Describe the method – research questions, sampling, participants, questions, data gathered, triangulation.

- Document insights from user research.

- Summarize key user pain points and opportunities identified.

- Provide evidence in the form of quotes, statistics, or key themes from your data collection. Also provide raw data.

- For engineering focused teams, this would be a listing down of requirements, gathered from stakeholders.

3. Preliminary Design Considerations

- Outline potential directions for addressing identified user needs.

- Highlight initial ideas for the prototype (but do NOT have to develop a prototype yet).

4. Additional Requirements for Engineering-Focused Teams

- **Requirements Definition:** Define functional and non-functional requirements for the system. This could be in the form of a document, spreadsheet Github issues, planner, whatever.

- **Screen Designs:** Provide wireframes or mockups of what you will build.

- **Technology Stack:** List and justify the selected technologies (e.g., frontend framework, backend, database, APIs).

5. Timeline & Next Steps

- Provide an updated timeline for the next two milestones.

- Outline next steps for transitioning into the prototyping phase.

Submission Format:

- One PDF per team.

- Clearly structured with sections matching the deliverables above.

- Include visuals where applicable (e.g., diagrams, user research notes, wireframes).

- Ensure clarity and conciseness.

- Make sure you provide access to all your documents.

Notes:

- If you are ahead of deadlines, please continue to be. It is your responsibility to stay on track.

- **No prototyping in this milestone**—focus entirely on user needs and research.

- Engineering-focused teams must define requirements, screens, and tech stack this week; development will be split into the next two milestones.

- Ensure that your findings are **user-centered** and actionable for the next milestone.

- Be prepared to use your needfinding insights to justify design choices in the next phase.

Looking ahead:

Milestone-3 will focus on prototyping and initial engineering implementation, while the final milestone will cover evaluation and results. It will tentatively be 10 days after this milestone (**3rd week of April**). Final presentations and reports are due on **May 1st**. Stay on track!