

Active Collaborator

As we saw in the learning plan, working with others in this unit is not only promoted but expected. Learning with peers has many benefits for all involved and will help enhance your collaborative skills that are essential to most computing projects.

This task promotes and recognises your engagement and your contributions to creating an effective learning community. We want you to actively engage with others in the unit to share your understanding and perspectives, to think through concepts, and work through issues together. This process should help all involved, developing technical and non-technical skills, helping you develop a deep understanding of unit concepts, and providing you and others with support when you get stuck with some code.

Learning Goals

To complete this task, you need to demonstrate that you can do the following:

- Actively collaborate with others to collaboratively build and extend your understanding of programming concepts, processes, and coding – both your understanding and others understanding.

Focus

As you work through this task, focus on the following aspects of the unit:

- **Programming concepts, process, and coding:** Focus on challenging areas and collaborate with others to develop your and their understanding.
- **Professional characteristics:** Focus on developing your collaborative skills and your persistence and attention to detail, while demonstrating your passion for learning and computing in general.

Your Task

For this task you will need to submit the following:

- A PDF document containing:
 - Summaries and reflections.
 - Learning Journey and Resources

1. Learn with others.

Learning to program can be challenging, and one of the best ways to overcome this is by studying and learning with others. By joining with the learning community within the unit, you can experience the fun and excitement of learning new things with peers. You will have sounding boards to test ideas, support to really understand tough concepts, and people to share your successes and challenges with.

For this task, we want you to demonstrate how actively engaging in the unit has helped you and others achieve learning goals.

Warning: Make sure to avoid collusion and plagiarism issues

Remember to safeguard yourself from potential academic integrity concerns. Share ideas and thoughts, clarify issues, but don't send anyone your code for aspects they are expected to do **individually** (such as the Test Your Knowledge aspects of the tasks). This behaviour may result in plagiarism issues for yourself and the other student(s).

You can actively engage in the unit in many ways, including but not limited to the following:

- Active engagement in the seminars or online study groups.
- Ask and help answer questions on the discussion board and in Teams.
- Create and share visualisation, animation, or other means of clearly communicating a concept from the unit. This would need to be insightful, and helpful to others who are learning the concept.
- Run and/or actively collaborate in Teams sessions to work through concepts with other students online.
- Provide constructive feedback to help others improve their explanations and work.
- Volunteer at the HelpHub – you will receive a certificate of appreciation at the end of the unit if your application is accepted and you actively engage in the HelpHub. More application details will be given in week 1, the applications will be open soon in week 4.

Please note that if you do help in class or at the HelpHub, you need to be willing to take feedback and direction from the tutors who are responsible for those events.

Always remember that you need to be respectful of other students and the tutors in this unit. To get this task signed off, your efforts will need to be seen as beneficial and collaborative by others (teaching staff and other students).

Tip: Are you a future Tutor?

If you really enjoy actively collaborating, you could look to extend aspects of this to become the *Something Awesome* you submit for your portfolio if you are aiming for a HD.

Regardless of the way in which you engage, you need to keep reflecting on what you and others find challenging. Think about what helped you and see what you can do to help others. You can then draw upon these reflections in your submission.

2. Prepare Submission

This task can only be submitted after week 9 of the unit, as we expect this to involve actions and reflections across a sustained period.

1. Prepare a summary of what **you** learnt from actively engaging and helping others. Make sure to cover and refer to all learning goals and unit focuses. Draw upon your reflections and observations throughout your learning journey.
2. Reflect on your learning by responding to the following prompts:
 - How do you know you have achieved the learning goals?
 - What is the most important thing you learned from this and why?
 - How will these skills help set you apart from others as you grow into securing and advancing your computing career?
3. Capture your learning journey and collate your evidence of study and practice.

3. Upload Your Submission & Engage with Feedback

Mark the task as **Ready for Feedback** and upload the required files. Make sure to keep copies of these in case you need to resubmit. Then engage with the feedback you receive and get the task Complete.

At the Distinction level, you should demonstrate that you are independent. Feedback should be used as a tool and an opportunity to get advice, and confirmation that you are on the right track.

If you are asked to resubmit, make sure your subsequent submission includes a comment that describes how you have addressed the feedback you received. Engage in a dialogue about the feedback if required. Do you not agree with or understand the feedback? Do you want to approach what has been pointed out differently? What is important is that you demonstrate you have addressed all the concerns raised by your tutor in their feedback on your learning.

Tip: Manage emotions

It is important to manage emotion in feedback interactions. Don't think of feedback as someone judging your mistakes and pointing them out but as someone who is putting time and effort into finding ways to help you learn and do even better.