

Guidelines for group work

The purpose of group work in this course is to help students learn *problem solving* and *team activity in computer science*. Each group activity may produce *better individual assignment solutions* by feedback from classmates, and may produce a *presentation* for the whole class.

Work that is for *group submission* should be submitted once with the names of everyone who contributed significantly to it (co-authored it). Work that is for *individual submission* should be submitted by the person who wrote the solution.

Help in the form of *ideas or comments* from others should be acknowledged. Help in the form of someone else writing solutions or parts of solutions for a student is *not permitted* and is considered *academic dishonesty* under College policy.

The best way to do group work may be to pretend that it is to produce a presentation. The presentation may be as small as explaining to one person how a programming problem can be solved, or as big as preparing a PowerPoint, with definitions of concepts and with references, and presenting it to a class.

For group work on assignments, the following procedure may work. Each student in turn describes a problem and suggests a way to start doing it; or

suggests a solution. The other student or students respond with criticisms and suggestions. Each student posts on the Discussion Board *her/his own solution in her/his own words* as possibly guided by the other students' suggestions and criticisms.

If the group is to produce a presentation, then more than one session, and a division of labor, may be needed. Here is a suggested division of labor:

- The *group facilitator* makes sure that the group stays on topic and solves the problem or completes the presentation.
- The *recorder* writes down the group's solution or the content of the presentation.
- The *reporter* uses the notes taken by the recorder to make the presentation.

Presentations may be made with use of Power Point slides, computer demos, or the whiteboard, or just standing and talking.

Because this is to be in a classroom rather than at a conference of trained professionals, presentations are expected to be imperfect. If presenters request help solving a problem, then others in the class are asked to contribute constructively to the discussion.