

CE 160 and ELC 152
First Semester, 2005 - 2006

Pre-final Project Evaluation
Draft as of September 10, 2005

This document describes processes, procedures and protocols for the prefinal project evaluation.

1. Introduction

The Pre-final Project Evaluation shall be scheduled about three weeks before finals week. At this point, students are expected to have nearly completed their projects and to have nearly completed the corresponding project documentation. At the same time the pre-final evaluation is scheduled so that students would have sufficient time to correct minor deficiencies that may be discovered during the prefinal evaluation.

The week on which Pre-final Project Evaluation is scheduled shall be referred to as "Pre-final Evaluation Week".

The Pre-final Project Evaluation Grade is based on a 10-point scale. The grade shall be an integer in the range [0,10].

2. Submission of Requirements and Scheduling

By 4 p.m. of Monday of Pre-final Evaluation Week, students are supposed to have submitted hard copies of draft project documentation to the course instructor. They are also supposed to have completed all necessary preparations for demonstrating their project at the designated venue.

Upon submission of draft documentation to the course instructor, the instructor asks the project group to sign up for a time slot. The project group comes back for their pre-final project evaluation at their designated time slot. Attendance is required for each project group member.

3. Evaluation Process

In preparation for the pre-final project evaluation, the instructor goes through the submitted draft documentation and takes note of various aspects of the documentation.

The project evaluation proper would start with the project group being asked to demonstrate their project. Software components of the project are verified to have been done using appropriate opensource tools. Various aspects of the project and its documentation are examined, and students questioned.

One hour is allocated for the pre-final project evaluation. If necessary, the instructor may require an extension or another session.

The instructor notes all deficiencies as the evaluation proceeds. The group is informed of the most likely assessment at the end of the evaluation, and notes any comments or objections the project group might raise against the assessment.

The instructor reviews the evaluation on his own after the evaluation session, then assigns a Pre-final Project Evaluation Grade for each project group member.

4. Grading

4.1. Criteria

The following are among the aspects to be considered in grading the project during the pre-final project evaluation:

- * Can the project be demonstrated at the designated venue
- * Does the project use only opensource tools?
- * Is the project almost complete?
- * Is the project documentation almost complete?
- * Have the students taken significant steps towards addressing deficiencies previously pointed out?
- * Are there clear specifications for portions of the project that are not yet complete?
- * Is the project likely to be completed on time?
- * Is the html project documentation almost complete?

4.2. Credits

Points are credited to the Pre-final Project Evaluation Grade as follows:

For readiness to demonstrate the project at the designated venue:

2 pts: if all tools needed to demonstrate the project and its implementation, including opensource compilers needed to compile code, have been properly installed

0 pts: if not all tools have been properly installed

Note: In special cases, 1 pt may be given if not all tools have been properly installed, but the tools omitted are of minor importance.

For use of appropriate opensource tools:

2 pts: if all tools used are opensource tools whenever possible

0 pts: if not all tools are opensource tools, despite the availability of opensource alternatives

Note: In the final evaluation, projects using non-opensource tools for which there are opensource alternatives will be rejected outright.

For completeness of the project:

- 3 pts: if the project is very close to completion, typically needing only minor improvements to error handling, or minor redesign; no key components are unimplemented;
- 2 pts: if the project cannot be demonstrated mainly because various components of the project have not been integrated yet, but independent components have been tested; clearly defined specifications exist for components that have not been implemented yet
- 1 pt: if only a minimal part of the project has been accomplished so far; or if the demonstrated project is found to have significant deficiencies
- 0 pts: if the project could not be demonstrated; or if essential components of the project are not yet complete; or if deficiencies that have already been pointed out have not been acted upon

For completeness of documentation:

- 3 pts: students are able to show a significant amount of text and html documentation
- 2 pts: either the text or html documentation, but not both, has significant deficiencies
- 1 pt: both text and html documentation have significant parts missing, but some parts, are nearly complete
- 0 pts: minimal documentation available

Note that some aspects of the project may affect several criteria.

4.3. Special Cases and Penalties

The Pre-final Project Evaluation Grade shall be 0 if no draft documentation is submitted or if the project group members do not show up for the evaluation.

Each group member shall be penalized one point if the draft is submitted late. Each group member shall be penalized one more point if the draft is submitted more than 24 hours late.

A student who shows up late for pre-final evaluation will be penalized one point. The student will be penalized one more point for showing up late by more than 15 minutes.

The Pre-final Project Evaluation Grade will be changed to a 0 if ever penalties result in a negative score.