# CIS400/401 Progress Report Specification*

## Dept. of CIS - Senior Design 2011-2012

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## ABSTRACT

*The purpose of your progress report is to inform us (Insup and the TAs), how your research/implementation is proceeding. At times, your progress report may be similar to your proposal (i.e., introduction, related work). However, we also expect significant additions to be made, elaborating on what has been done, and how your anticipated approach has been refined – all with a heightened level of technical detail.*

*Everything noted in the proposal specification still applies. In this document, we only focus on how sections should be extended to reflect your progress. Do not be afraid to break from our suggested organization as your project may require.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Just as with your proposal, introduce your topic and the associated key concepts. Motivate your ideas, summarize what has/will be done, and outline how the rest of the paper will proceed. Projects operating in complex or unfamiliar domains may be well served by adding a *background* section.

## 2. RELATED WORK

Similarly, related work should proceed as previously. Use respected and academic resources whenever possible – make sure they are relevant to your project domain. Add or remove resources as additional reading has deemed necessary.

## 3. SYSTEM MODEL

Here you need to answer the *what* and *why* about your system. Impart a high-level intuition about what you are doing and why it will work. Include a block diagram of your system workflow. Cover each component of your system in a technical manner, but do not get caught up in low-level details. Abstract out the *general system behavior*.

## 4. SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION

Here is where you answer the *how*. How did you implement the system described in Sec. 3? Justify your design decisions (*e.g.*, performance vs. efficiency). Indeed, your implementation is probably not yet complete, but you should be speculative about the direction your group plans to take. This is the *only* section where things like DB-choice, programming language, *etc.* should be discussed.

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*For this report, we do **not** need a signed hard-copy. Electronic submission is sufficient: Submit **only** via BlackBoard, please do **not** email copies to the professor or TAs.

## 5. SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Here you need to show that the implementation of Sec. 4 succeeds in leveraging the properties discussed in Sec. 3. Being that your implementation is incomplete, robust performance statistics are probably not possible. However, you need to demonstrate you are on the right track. Extrapolate from naïve tests to predict full-fledged performance. Visualize performance (*i.e.*, graphs, tables) whenever possible. Also report on auxiliary measures (*e.g.*, accuracy may your primary goal, but efficiency statistics are also interesting).

## 6. REMAINING WORK

Some remaining tasks have likely been discussed prior to this point – now succinctly aggregate them all here. Also provide an honest assessment of your completion percentage.

## 7. REFERENCES

[1] Wikibooks. LaTeX. http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/LaTeX. Note: Students should not cite Wikis!

## APPENDIX

## A. PROPOSAL ISSUES

Overall, we were pleased with the quality of the (revised) proposals. However, there were a few common errors:

- Projects should have a *title*. That title should not be, "CIS 400/401 Project Proposal Specification."
- Vertical margin issues? Run `texconfig` and verify your default paper is letter-size instead of A4 (default).
- *Citations*. The proper format is: "...end of sentence [1]." Notice the citation is, (1) inside the period, (2) inside the quotations, and (3) a space from the last word. Some groups also needed significantly more citations.
- The word 'I' should never be used – use 'we' sparingly. Similarly, try to limit usage of "this project."
- Use more figures/graphics. When you do, make sure they are *original* works. They should be designed so they are legible when printed in black and white.
- Make sure you discuss the *merit* of your work. What is the real world benefit?

## B. REPORT PARAMETERS

Progress reports should be 6–8 pages in length. There is no fixed requirement on the number of resources – use good judgement. Poor reports will require revision, re-submission, and be penalized. Again, **do not plagiarize**.