

# DAS Senior Projects 1 and 2: Course Guidelines

## Overview

These courses comprise the capstone experience of the Digital Arts and Sciences degree program. In these courses the students will synthesize much of what they have learned in their other CISE, FA and DAS courses by creating and completing a two-semester-long project. This is an opportunity for the students to put into practice the skills and techniques that they have learned during their undergraduate studies.

These courses will give the students the experience of designing and building a significant product comprised of a synergy of art and computer science. They will have the responsibility of meeting deadlines, and creating, evaluating, and revising problem specifications. This type of experience is one that is typical of working in industry after receiving a baccalaureate degree.

It is anticipated that DAS senior projects should be encouraged for public dissemination. In this fashion, selected projects may serve future generations of students, as well as informing the public at large about the diversity and quality of projects possible in Digital Arts and Sciences.

There will be two sets of deliverables, one for each of the project supervisors. The deliverables for the advisor will be determined by the advisor. The deliverables for the course coordinator will include:

- The formal proposal
- Intermediate milestones and projections
- The final product
- Log-book
- Final paper
- Several oral presentations

## Supervision

There are two key supervisory people for this course—the project advisor and the DAS senior project coordinator.

- The project advisor should usually be a CISE faculty member, although in some extraordinary cases (with approval from the DAS senior project coordinator), the person can be a professional from outside the CISE faculty. The advisor should be thought of as the “client,” similar to the industry situation where a commercial client contracts software development by a company. The students are responsible for finding an advisor and determining what project they will pursue prior to registering for the course. It is suggested that the student meet with a CISE undergraduate advisor if they have questions about how to facilitate this process.

It is important to note that the students will work throughout the semester directly and frequently with their project advisor to achieve final project completion. They should maintain regular contact with their advisor (no less than once every two weeks, and some advisors may require more frequent interaction).

- The course coordinator will monitor student progress during this semester. The DAS senior project coordinator will handle departmental administration of the course and will be responsible for assigning a grade based on the deliverables. Final grades will be determined as a result of input from both the project advisor and the senior project coordinator.

It is important to note that it is not the task of the course supervisor to help students with their work, correct programming problems, participate in writing the report, etc.

## Project Proposal and Approval

Students will propose their own projects. Projects will be reviewed and approved by the senior project coordinator. The project must be of an appropriate scope with a strong computer science influence. Projects that fail to meet this requirement are subject to being denied approval. If a project is not approved the student may either revise the project specifications to make the project of an appropriate scope or select a new project of appropriate scope from the Project Idea Database. If a student does not have a project idea or advisor, they should consult the Project Idea Database to find a project and advisor.

Students may work alone or in teams to produce their project with the approval of *both* the project advisor and the senior project coordinator. Students will meet with their advisors to define the project scope, goals, tasks, and deliverables prior to proposing the project to the senior project coordinator.

When proposing the project, students should be prepared to identify both the significant art and computer science components, the software applications and languages that will be used to develop the project, and the medium of the final deliverable. Throughout the life cycle of the project, each student is responsible for developing *both* the art and computer science components. If either component is neglected or missing, the student will automatically fail.

## Meetings

Senior project is a largely self-directed experience. As such, the class will only meet as a whole a few times during each semester. Each student will meet with the senior project coordinator regularly on an individual basis so that their progress may be monitored. Students should also remain in regular contact with their project advisors. They are expected to work an average of 9-12 hours per week on their project and are free to do so when and where ever best suits their needs, however they should be prepared to review their progress during the regularly scheduled meetings with the senior project coordinator (hence the required log-book).

## Final grades

DAS Senior Project I will focus on project proposal, research, preproduction, planning, and prototyping. DAS Senior Project II will focus on project implementation and evaluation. A final grade will be determined at the end of each semester. The senior project coordinator will determine final grades. Grades will be based on input from the project advisor and criteria based on the following general categories.

### Semester I

Proposal  
Research  
Preproduction/Planning  
Prototyping  
Presentation  
General

### Semester II

Implementation  
Evaluation  
Presentation skills  
General

Each student's grade will be determined individually regardless of whether they are working on a team or not. This means that each student is responsible for meeting the criteria for a successful senior project on their own. People working in teams should therefore modularize their projects so that each person may work independently.