

Learning community interest survey

One of the most important skills required in the real world is the ability to work effectively in groups. Yet, most of our curriculum is all about independent work. In this class, you have an opportunity to practice your group-work skills - and to benefit from working together effectively. Here's how this will work:

- Once I have a list of all the students interested in working with other people in class, I will create groups from this list.
- The groups will be created randomly, such that **EVERY GROUP** will have the same average cumulative UCI GPA. I'm going to refer to this as the Group Average UCI GPA, or GAUG. Thus, each group is going to start off on equal footing with every other group, since every group will have the same GAUG.
- All the classwork will be done normally, every quiz and exam will be taken individually, and each assignment will be handed in individually. There will be no separate "group" projects. The idea is that you help each other out in every aspect of the class, so that everyone in your group does better than they would have individually.
- At the end of the class, I will convert all your class grades to a Class GPA (so, if you get an "A" in the class, your class GPA will be 4.0 - irrespective of whatever GPA you have, overall, at UCI).
- I can then find the Class Average GPA (CAG) for each group.
- Each member of every group will get an additional score added to their total. This additional score will be calculated as follows: $(\text{CAG} - \text{GAUG} - 0.3) * 20$. This additional score will be used to recalculate your grade. So, let's say the cut-off for an A- was 800 points. Let's also say that your total in the class was 790, your group's GAUG was 3.1, and your group's CAG was 3.6. Now, each member of your group will get an additional $(3.6 - 3.1 - 0.3) * 20$ points, which comes out to an additional 40 points. Your new total will now be $790 + 40 = 830$ points, which will be an A-. So, because you worked well in a group, your grade will get a boost, and instead of a B+, you got an A-!!
- If your CAG is less than your GAUG, no points will be taken off your score.

So, you can only benefit from working together. However, working together entails some sacrifices, and you need to commit to it!

This survey is to gauge your interest in participating in this group work incentive project to help you learn better in this class. Group work involves a commitment on your part, and your group is not guaranteed to be the perfect group! You might have to learn to get along with difficult people, and still figure out a way to work with them. If you are not willing to make this commitment this quarter, that's totally fine - group work might just not be your thing this quarter!

However, if you are interested, and are willing to fully participate, please answer a few questions so that I can put you into a group with other students who are similarly motivated to work in a group.

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- 1.** Do you agree that you will continue working in the group even if you feel like not everyone is pulling their weight?

Yes No
- 2.** Do you agree to continue working in the group even if your schedule changes during the quarter (which means you might have to work with your group and figure out an alternative time/way to meet)?

Yes No
- 3.** Do you agree to continue working in the group even if you feel there are some members that you cannot get along with personally (this means that you will need to find ways to put aside your personal feelings, and work with them professionally)?

Yes No
- 4.** Do you agree that you will start speaking up in the group and participating more actively if you feel like (or are told by other members in your group) you are not contributing enough?

Yes No
- 5.** Do you agree that you will start listening more to your group if you feel like (or are told by other members in your group) you are speaking more than everyone else?

Yes No
- 6.** Do you agree that you will make the time to get to know your group members, and that you will make the time throughout the quarter to work with them and help others/get help from others as needed?

Yes No
- 7.** Do you agree that you will continue working in the group even if you feel like you are the strongest/weakest member of the group?

Yes No
- 8.** If you agree to participate in a group, Dr. K will assign your seating for the class. This may be in the front of the room. Or it may be in the back. Whatever happens, do you agree to continue sitting with your group for the entire quarter?

Yes No
- 9.** Some members of your group might be working in a different Discussion section. Do you agree to still participate actively in your group and make the time to work with others in your group even if this is the case?

Yes No
- 10.** Please enter your current cumulative GPA here (as close as you can remember). Please enter it in the form X.Y (e.g., 2.9)

First Learning Community meeting summary

Please write a summary of what you discussed with your group this week. What norms did your groups decide to establish in order to create a safe space for everyone to contribute?

How are you going to make sure that you are contributing equitably to your group?

What was your contribution to this week's group discussion?

Please tell me approximately how long you spent meeting and discussing things with your group this week. Please put down the total time of all meetings, in minutes. An approximation is fine!