

MIDTERM EXAM RESULTS

CSE 416-S01 - Software Engineering

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Scores

- Adjusted midterm grades are now posted on class web site
- TAs reviewed the exam notes and exam videos
- Comparison

| | Fall2025-S01 | Fall2024-S01 |
|---------|--------------|--------------|
| Median | 85.5 | 90.0 |
| Average | 83.6 | 85.5 |

Results indicate varied progress of teams

- Observations:

- This semester, there was more coding, but less thinking
- Looks like AI is causing the change

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Summary of Exam Categories

- Teamwork
 - Good coordination and meeting interaction
 - Limited coordination on interfaces
- Requirements analysis
 - Very limited knowledge displayed
 - Imprecise linking of requirements to design
- Project planning
 - Some good use of project management tools (e.g., Trello)
- System/test design
 - Use of AI appeared to limit design thinking
 - Inadequate testing of GUI through test data on server

A few teams had members working multiple components of project – did not appear to be a productive approach

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Soft Skills in Software Engineering

In a world of AI coding assists, thinking and soft skills are increasingly important

- Non-technical language skills appeared very good
- But many students not comfortable discussing technical topics
 - Indicates lack of precise team discussions
 - Indicates possible over-reliance on non-verbal communications
- Many students not aware of progress of teammates' project components
 - Indicates some teams not monitoring overall project progress

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Preprocessing / GUI Issues

- Preprocessing
 - Limited amount of real data gathered as of midterm date
 - Only 2-3 teams appeared to have done the expected data cleaning of EAVS data
 - Almost no indication of teams' gathering some non-EAVS data
 - Resulting in some teams' late planning of database design
 - Little indication of real data being used for GUI testing
- GUI
 - Persistent data stored on client, not on server/DB

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Design Reviews

- Midterm exam results elevates the importance of the design reviews
- Prep for design reviews in the next few sessions

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