

CS 6023 Research Methods & Presentations - Final Project Requirements & Guidelines

Rich Halstead-Nussloch¹
January 2002

Initial Preparation and Overview of the Required Product

The research project in CS6023 should address a topic of interest to you. Your first step is to identify that topic and establish an appropriate set of information goals. The project may take the form of a complete research project or it may be a detailed proposal for a project too large, extensive, or time-consuming for you to complete in one term. In either event, the expected amount of work is the same. The report or proposal should be approximately 3000 words (use your wordprocessor to count them and indicate the word count in the frontmatter), not including the references and bibliography. This works out to about 15 typed, double-spaced pages. So, at the end of your preparation, you should have (make note of them here):

- An information goal (state):
- A decision on either (choose one):
 - A complete research project.
 - A proposal for a project that is larger than this term's final project.

Proposal Requirement

This project requires a separate proposal. Prior to the final due date for the final project proposal, you may turn in as many drafts of the proposal as time allows for comment. Each draft should be in the format described for proposals, with all headings present. Early drafts will, of course, have no text under some headings. Prepare your proposal according to the guidelines in the description, [Proposals](#).

Sources of Information

The project or proposal must include at least twenty (20) citations in its bibliography or references, and these should be balanced (about 50-50) between "normal" hardcopy items and items from sources on the Internet or web. Items in the References section must be referred to explicitly or quoted in the report's written material. Items in the Bibliography section indicate background material. Follow the guidelines for citing references and bibliographic materials outlined in the paper on [Plagiarism](#).

Report Document Requirement

The document you deliver should be approximately 3000 words (use your wordprocessor to count them and indicate the word count in the frontmatter), not including the references and bibliography. This works out to about 15 typed, double-spaced pages. Follow the guidelines for writing your report outlined in the [Tips and Techniques](#). Alternatively you might use a set of formatting guidelines external to the course, e.g., your firm's technical report guidelines, those

¹ With thanks to Bob Harbort and Mac Hart for their contributions to this document

from a conference or publication, etc. If you will use an external set of guidelines, this must be documented, preferably in your project proposal but also acceptably in a change request.

Project Presentation Requirement

An oral presentation, not to exceed the time allotted, is required. This presentation should follow the guidelines in the [Tips and Techniques](#) and [A Quick Guide to Presentations](#), and it should cover a:

- Summary of your project (75% - 80% of the presentation)
- Description of your research experiences (20% -25% of the presentation)

Some CS6023 Research Project Options

For those students who are interested in doing so, the research project in this course provides an opportunity to lay the groundwork for the Master's Project or Master's Thesis. If you are far enough along to have an idea of a subject area, you might consider doing something to narrow the field of inquiry and define a specific topic. If you already have a fairly specific idea, the 6023 research project might take the form of a feasibility study or a literature search leading to an annotated bibliography. The student who prepares carefully could turn this term's work into the first chapter of a Master's Project Report, or a Master's Thesis.

For those students who are interested in publishing and/or presenting their research, the research project in this course provides an opportunity to prepare a submission. Collaborative research done with other faculty members and/or students is encouraged, *provided the student can clearly carve out an identifiable and significant piece of the work to do individually on this project*. The student is responsible for identifying the target publication or conference and appropriate formatting requirements. If work is collaborative, a section of the research experience description should describe how the work reported in the student's paper was an individual contribution.

For those students who are working, the research project in this course provides an opportunity to complete a research project for work, *provided the project is entirely in the public domain and is not proprietary to your work*. The student is responsible for ensuring from the outset the project is not proprietary. Collaborative research done with other work colleagues, faculty members and/or students is encouraged, *provided the student can clearly carve out an identifiable and significant piece of the work to do individually on this project*. The student is responsible for identifying the target technical report, publication, or conference and appropriate formatting requirements. If work is collaborative, a section of the research experience description should describe how the work reported in the student's paper was an individual contribution.

For those students who are taking another course requiring a major research project report, the research project in this course provides an opportunity to complete one research project for both courses, *provided the professor in the other course approves*. The student is responsible for securing the permission of any other professors involved, and for informing all appropriate professors of the multiple submission.

So, in considering your options, you need to decide whether you will:

- Do a completely independent project for CS6023.
- Link your 6023 project to your Master's Project or Master's Thesis.
- Use your 6023 project in a publication or conference submission.
- Link your 6023 project to your work (MUST NOT BE PROPRIETARY).
- Link your 6023 project to another course's project (MUST HAVE EXPLICIT PERMISSION FROM ALL PROFESSORS).

Experience Log/Description Requirement

As part of your final project or proposal report, you should turn in a description (2 typed pages, maximum) of the process of doing your research, activities attempted and completed, impressions formed, etc. It should cover how you tracked things down, what empirical data (if any) you collected, and any useful hints you may have for others. If work is collaborative, a section of the research experience description should describe how the work reported in the student's paper was an individual contribution.

Deliverables for the CS6023 Final Project

- A proposal by the due date, see [Proposals](#).
- The final project paper, written following an external formatting guideline, or the guidelines in [Tips and Techniques](#), by the due date, complete with text and references and bibliography (following the guidelines in [Plagiarism](#)), and which can be either a:
 - Proposal for a larger project
 - Complete project report using the CS6023 guidelines
 - A complete project report or submission using external guidelines
- The written description of your research experience (appended to your project report)
- An oral presentation, not to exceed the time allotted, (see [A Quick Guide to Presentations](#)), which provides a:
 - Summary of your project (75% - 80% of the presentation)
 - Description of your research experiences (20% -25% of the presentation)