

EECS 498 W26 System Design of a Search Engine

Group photos

Due Sunday, January 25, 2026

You are to form groups of 6, choose a name for your group and submit a photo of yourselves. If our enrollment is not a multiple of 6, we may have some teams of 5 or 7. Once your group photo is submitted and you're in it, please do not withdraw from the course.

My experience is that a team's performance on this deceptively simple task of submitting a creative photo of themselves was *amazingly* predictive of how well they would do on everything else.

Here are the rules for your photo.

1. You must all appear in the photo. Faces must be clearly visible, not hidden behind hats or funny glasses, not Photoshopped into weird colors, or pasted onto other people's heads, and *large* enough you can be easily recognized. You're going to put this photo on the first page of your project plan and final report and it'll be on the first slide of your final presentation. But mostly, it'll help me get to know you when we meet to discuss status and when I'm thinking about your work and our conversations.
2. Each person must be identified by name.
3. Your group name must appear in the photo.
4. You should not be spending money on this. It might be okay to buy matching tee shirts, I suppose, but that's about it. If in doubt, ask me.
5. You can edit the image but less is more.
6. You may not steal copyrighted artwork. You may use public domain images with a citation of where you got it but I would really prefer to see what you can do on your own.
7. Filetypes should be either .jpg or .png.
8. Filenames should be in the format of group name + each of the individual names, separated by dashes, spaces around the dashes and between first and last names. Expect you may lose points if you give me "image00453.jpg".
9. This assignment is good naturedly competitive. You will be graded subjectively based on creativity and execution and on how well your team did compared to the others. We'll do this by vote of your fellow students. If you do something lame, you're going to be embarrassed and your grade will suffer.
10. Please submit only one copy for the entire team via Canvas. If you can't manage to agree on who will do that and instead turn in multiple copies, you may all lose points.