

ECE 110 – Team Collaboration

Human-Centered Design Module #1

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to facilitate discussion to assist in the creation of your **team contract**. Use the questions and prompts in this module to develop a better understanding of your teammates and decide on how you can best collaborate this semester.

Pre-Lab

You should have completed the prelab exercise **“Working in Teams”** on Tuckman’s theory of group formation.

During Lab

Complete the below sections **as a group during lab time. Assign one person to record your answers in this document.**

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

To get the conversation started, this activity will push you to find **common ground with your group members**. The activity will be conducted in **3 rounds**, each one getting more specific, but lowering the minimum number of items to find in common.

Round 1 - General facts

For this round, **any information about yourself** will do - where you’re from, how many siblings you have, what pet(s) you have - whatever it is, it just has to be shared across your whole team!

Discover **at least 3 general facts** you all have in common and list them below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Round 2 - Activities you enjoy

Next, we'll go a little bit deeper - discuss with your team some of the **things you enjoy doing** and see where you're similar. **As you're listening to your group members, don't be afraid to (respectfully) ask "Why do you enjoy that?" and other such follow-up questions** when they mention a hobby or interest that surprises you; remember, the outcome of this activity is to list out **at least 4 activities** you all enjoy, but the goal is to get to know each other along the way!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Round 3 - Your motivations for engineering

For this last round, we want you to discuss the **reasons each of you chose a major in engineering**. Since this is a little more in-depth and nuanced, we recommend you go around **one at a time** and give each person a chance to share their motivations. Once every group member has shared, discuss as a group to see if there were any **trends or themes across all of your answers**; if there were (even if they end up being really general because your motivations are all so different), write them out below! Aim for **at least 2** of these trends or themes, if possible.

- 1.
- 2.

Part 2 – Discussion of Prior Team Experiences

Once you've completed the ice-breaker activity, it's time to move on to a discussion of prior team experiences. Your prior experiences, good or bad, may bias your expectations for this semester. Let's explore them!

Identify 3-5 positive group experiences that were shared by two or more of your ECE 110 teammates.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- ...

Unfortunately, things don't always go well. **Identify 3-5 negative group experiences** that were shared by two or more of your ECE 110 teammates.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- ...

Part 3 - Personal Strengths

Although you and your team may still be learning about yourselves and what you're good at, a preliminary discussion of perceived strengths will help you begin to understand each other better.

What are the strengths of each of your team members? One at a time, ask your team members the following questions and **identify between 2 and 4 distinct "strengths"** for each team member.

1. *What do think you're best at when collaborating with a group?*
2. *What unique experiences or skills do you have?*

Strengths can include anything related to **technical skills** (building electronics, coding, testing/evaluation, etc.) OR **non-technical skills** (communication, time management, conflict resolution, etc.); it's also totally OK if a strength is shared among two or more team members!

Name	Strengths

Part 4 – Team Roles

You can assign each group member a “role” for what they should be responsible for throughout the semester based on their strengths.

Assigning roles can be tricky, especially in a group where your skills and experiences are already quite similar. Examples of roles for your ECE 110 lab group could include:

- **“The Scribe”** - the team member that takes notes and/or records responses to questions during group sessions
- **“The Timekeeper”** - the team member that watches the clock and keeps the team on course
- **“The Brakeman”** - the team member that “applies the brakes” when the rush to finish is sacrificing the learning objectives and general comprehension of the topics
- **“The Scheduler”** - the team member that is responsible for ensuring the team has a meeting time outside of lab hours and that contact is made when such a meeting needs to occur

Name	Team Role

Comment on which roles may be permanently assigned and which roles might rotate through the team.

Part 5 – Team Contract

It’s important for you and your group to have a shared understanding of what it means to create a supportive group environment. You will create a **“Team-Support Commitment”** to put in the team contract that outlines your dedication to this principle. A sample commitment is as follows:

Our ECE 110 lab group agrees to do our best to support each other throughout the semester, which will include:

- *Being mindful and respectful of group member commitments and responsibilities outside of ECE 110*
- *Encouraging open communication about challenges that group members are facing, both in and out of ECE 110*
- *Giving group members the benefit of the doubt and opportunity to explain themselves when something goes wrong instead of jumping to judgement*

A copy of this commitment is already in the template for the team contract you received.

Open the Team Contract Template and complete it now. The discussions you and your team had during this exercise should help lead to a meaningful contract.

Part 6 – Individual Video (If *not* done in the prelab already)

Finally, ***each*** student must record and submit a 30-second video to introduce yourself to your TAs. Include your name, what is your greatest concern regarding ECE 110, and what are you most excited about regarding ECE 110.

Submit your individual video to GradeScope as an *.mp4 within the deadline given.

Post-Lab

Have *every* team submit this document (Team Collaboration) to GradeScope. Each contributing member's name should appear.

Submit your complete-and-signed Team Contract to GradeScope. Again, each contributing member's name should appear.

Grading also will take into account that instructions were followed properly and that all sections are thoughtfully completed.

The team contract will be also assessed based on how well it will enable your team to fulfill these 5 criteria (this is what we call a "rubric"):

- Will the charter foster equal contribution to the teams work from all members?
- Will the charter foster positive interactions between teammates?
- Will the charter keep the team and individuals on track?
- Will the charter encourage quality work from the team and individuals?
- Will the charter foster the development of skills and abilities necessary to succeed in ECE 110?

Reminders:

GradeScope's written submissions must be PDF's and in portrait orientation.

Videos submitted to GradeScope in *.mp4 format only.