



**Course Document:**  
**IS Application Project (IS 480)**

**Version 4.2**

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# 1. Overview of the Application Project Course

## 1.1. Synopsis

The application project enables the SMU Information Systems Management student to

- Develop the additional depth and experience required to become a Business IT professional.
- Use the project to realize their own version of our “3 Pillars Strategy” by concentrating on how to apply IT solutions to problems within a particular industry sector concentration.
- Use the project to build up competence in one of the Information Technology & System Areas.

Please refer to [http://www.sis.smu.edu.sg/programme/ism\\_curriculum.asp](http://www.sis.smu.edu.sg/programme/ism_curriculum.asp) for description of the “3 Pillars Strategy”.

## 1.2. Prerequisites

Students must complete IS203 Software Engineering before taking this course. Students must be in year 3 or 4. All students are required to complete the application project course.

In the term where you do IS 480, we STRONGLY recommend you only take 4 CU's that term. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCE will the SIS Dean's Office give approval for you to do extra CU's (above and beyond the SMU standard) in the term where you are registered for IS 480. Please refer to the IS480 website for detail description.

## 1.3. Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Showcase expertise in executing a project using the knowledge acquired from the courses taken from the ISM curriculum.
- Experience developing some technology deliverables required in all IS480 projects.
- Experience working in a team environment with a sponsored project (if sponsored) using project management skills experience throughout the courses taken in ISM.
- Learn about an industry or technology not otherwise available in the course curriculum.
- Work on a complex project.

## 1.4. IS480 website

Most of the IS480 information is available at the <http://blue.smu.edu.sg/IS480> website.

## 1.5. Teams

All projects must be completed in teams. The ideal team is 4-6 members. Students must form their own teams. Students from different cohorts are welcome and encouraged to work together. Form teams early.

## 1.6. Projects

### 1.6.1. Characteristics of projects

Good projects typically have the following characteristics:

- The entire team is highly motivated to complete the project, because of interest in the domain, the technology or delivering to the client.
- The topic of the project is interesting to the SIS community at large. This generally means the topic is in Business-IT.
- The sponsor – whether an external company, or internal to SMU – has a strong interest in the project.

- The project results in lasting deliverables. Good projects create deliverables which are useful to people outside the team. These could be a usable application, a prototype which could be evolved, etc.

### 1.6.2. Types of projects

Types of projects should all involve some kind of technological deliverables. This could be any of the following (not exclusive).

- Application development/build – We expect most students to build something – a working system, prototype or proof of concept. Students will develop a new application or build upon/integrate existing applications into a new system. Working in teams they will experience in the life cycle of a system from concept through delivery. They will deliver a working system that addresses a real problem.
- Technology demo and evaluation – Students will create demonstrable experiments evaluating the capabilities of similar or competing technologies addressing a business-IT problem. The focus here is a deep understanding and benchmarking of existing technology or applications.
- Faculty-directed research – Students [must be team project] may carry also out their projects with a research faculty member. The expected project deliverable must include a demo-able system or experiments for a publishable research problem. The research interests of SIS faculty members can be found at: <http://www.sis.smu.edu.sg/Faculty/faculty.asp>.

Refer to the website for examples of IS480 projects.

### 1.6.3. Project Source and Sponsor

The following list likely Sources and Sponsors for Projects.

- External Organization – Industry or government sponsors a project of interest to that organization. These can be internship companies, CCA contacts, community organization, etc.
- Standard Charter Innovation Lab – Standard Charter works with the students to define a project of interest to the bank.
- SMU Organizations – an SMU organization (SIS, a CCA, CIT, etc).
- SMU SIS Faculty / Staff – Research projects sponsored by SIS faculty
- Other SMU Faculty / Staff – Work with faculty at other schools at SMU using IT
- Student – Individual or small group proposes a project they'd like to pursue and identifies an organization which would be a logical client for that kind of project.

Project sponsors external to SIS are recommended in all cases and in some cases may be required. Students who do not have a project are encouraged to approach the course manager at least two months before the term. Students in their last year who don't have a project may be assigned a project and team by the course manager.

### 1.6.4. Project Scope

Each student is expected to spend at least 168 hours on the project during the registered term. This is derived from 14 weeks x 12 hours/week. The 12 hours is estimated based normal course work which includes a 3 hours/week in class + 9 hours outside class work. The project should be completed in one term. **Advance preparation is required** for the project proposal – see below. Students are advised not to take more than 5 courses (including IS480).

### 1.6.5. Project Supervisor

All projects must have a faculty supervisor. Only work done after engaging a supervisor can be guaranteed to be credited. Supervisors will be assigned by the course manager.

## **2. Output and Assessment Summary**

All deliverables are team deliverables. Refer to the IS480 website for the latest and more details of the deliverables and the grading scheme.

### **2.1. Project Proposal and Acceptance**

Before the project proposal is accepted, the team cannot register for IS480. It is important to get feedback on your project proposal early. Please contact the course manager who approves all project proposals. Refer to the IS480 website for proposal template, acceptance presentation and registration steps.

### **2.2. Project Midterm**

IS480 project cannot be done solely on the work effort done during the last 3-6 weeks of the term. Thus, this course required a midterm to monitor team progress and also provide an early feedback on your project. Refer to the IS480 website for midterm expectation.

### **2.3. Project Posters**

While a project poster is not graded, it is required for all projects. Teams must produce an A2 sized poster that describes the project. Teams working for external sponsors should clear the poster content with the sponsor well in advance. Refer to the IS480 website for poster examples.

### **2.4. Project Final**

The main assessment of this application project course rests on the final presentation and deliverables. The final presentation and deliverable details are explained in the IS480 website. The team must schedule the final presentation with the supervisor and course manager. Refer to the IS480 website for final expectation.

### **2.5. Project Grading Guidelines**

Please refer to the IS480 website for the grading procedures and criteria.

### **3. Learning outcomes, achievement methods and assessment**

Please refer to the LO matrix document.

The students are responsible for defining how the project meets these learning objective requirements in the project proposal. The faculty supervisor will help in identifying the learning objectives.

#### **3.1. Academic Integrity**

All acts of academic dishonesty (including, but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, facilitation of acts of academic dishonesty by others, unauthorized possession of exam questions, or tampering with the academic work of other students) are serious offences.

All work (whether oral or written) submitted for purposes of assessment must be the student's own work. Penalties for violation of the policy range from zero marks for the component assessment to expulsion, depending on the nature of the offense.

When in doubt, students should consult the instructors of the course. Details on the SMU Code of Academic Integrity may be accessed at <http://www.smuscd.org/resources.html>.

## 4. Classroom Planning

Each team will be assigned a supervisor. The supervisor will make arrangements to meet the team weekly usually in their office or meeting rooms. The actual meeting progress report is flexible to the team, project, sponsor and supervisor. However, the supervisor should monitor the progress of the team and report to the course manager if needed. **The teams are required to update their progress using the IS480 wiki.**

## 5. Course Schedule Summary

Please refer to the IS480 website for the latest schedule.

Students are encouraged to start early. While this course is registered as one term, the actual work required usually involved longer than one term.

## 6. List of Information resources, references and tooling

Please refer to the IS480 website for available tooling

## 7. Version History

Version	Description of changes	Who	Date
V4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer LO to LO matrix</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan	27-Dec-10
V4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add additional awards</li> <li>• Ask for project 1-minute pitch during class time.</li> <li>• Use wiki reports</li> <li>• Update the grading criteria (move complexity into project management)</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan (Feida, Baihua, Chris and Kevin)	23-Sep-10 (IS480 supervisor meeting on Sep. 23, 10)
V4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove all the extra stuff on teams (only 4-6 members)</li> <li>• Project proposal and acceptance presentation.</li> <li>• Class planning include teams updating the wiki</li> <li>• Update on the course schedule</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan (Kevin, Jing, Baihua, Tock Soon, Yingjiu, Ilse, Feida, Ori and Fiona)	9-Mar-10 (IS480 supervisor meeting on 26-Feb-10)
V3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the Learning Objectives with more details</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan	28-Dec-09
V3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students MUST be year 3 or 4.</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan	22-Sep-09
V3.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refers to the wiki and blue website for updated information.</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan	10-Jul-09

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should be year 3 or 4.</li> </ul>		
V2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommends 4 CU and not more than the standard.</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan (for Steve Miller)	1 Sept 2008
V2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the course design template provided by SIS. Updated the course objective, learning outcome, etc.</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan	17 June 2008
V2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed FAQ, Stakeholder roles and Project Proposal Template</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan	23 May 2008
V1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added rough grading outline (8)</li> </ul>	Kevin Steppe	15 May 2008
V1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification of proposal process for out-of-term work</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	Kevin Steppe	14 June 2007
V1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different cohorts may work together</li> <li>• Individual research no longer accepted</li> <li>• Clarification of requirements</li> </ul>	Kevin Steppe	12 April 2007
V1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course is not open for bidding; registration will be done through the course manager – revised proposal process to reflect this.</li> <li>• IS 203 (SE) pre-req</li> <li>• Added FAQs</li> <li>• Add description of good project features</li> <li>• Included note on students' responsibility for equitable distribution of effort and contribution</li> </ul>	Kevin Steppe	6 April 06
V1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed project types</li> <li>• Added process for project proposal</li> <li>• Removed "Tips" (part of process)</li> </ul>	Kevin Steppe	21 Feb 06
V1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added research projects to types of projects</li> <li>• Roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Project sponsors are required for most project type</li> <li>• Tips for preparing projects</li> </ul>	Benjamin Gan & Kevin Steppe	19 Jan 06
V1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First complete version</li> </ul>	Kevin Steppe & Pang Hwee Hwa	24 June 05
Draft 1.0	Creation of the document	Kevin Steppe	10 Jan 05