

CS2340 Prep Advice

One of the biggest aims of this course (if you haven't already been told) is that this class is allowing you to write a pseudo-real program. You code will span many, many classes, likely more than you have ever written before. It will take time, and you should make sure to expect it. One of the biggest slip-ups my group had was not anticipating quite how the course would go, and all of a sudden "Oh by the way guys, that next milestone? Where you write all your main code? I released that yesterday. It's due in a week." A lot of times it felt like we spent the whole semester trying to catch up to where we were supposed to be. So get started early! And hopefully you read this before it's too late.

My other bit of advice is this. Keep your eyes open outside of this class too. Try applying things you are learning/have learned in your other classes. My suggestion is looking into Database classes personally. CS 4400 is a great one. If we could have worked MySQL into our code w/o redesigning the whole concept it would have saved a lot of effort.

Lastly, remember that as intensive as this class is (and it is), nine times out of ten, real work won't be as stressful as all this. So don't lose hope! Many of you will get a job in an already well-established company, and work on improving pre-existing code. And if you have trouble getting a foothold, start drawing pictures! As silly as some of the visual planning stages can seem initially, you'd be amazed at the benefits you will create for yourself, your team, and your successors.