CS271: Data Structures

Statement Of Intention

Part of the Competency & Portfolio system asks students to be intentional and committal to their course learning goals. During the third week of the semester, students are asked to submit a statement of intention which indicates their desired level of achievement in each competency category and also a plan for reaching that level. The statement is designed to be reflective in nature, perhaps including such things as the aspects of the class the student expects to be the most enjoyable, the easiest, the most challenging? The student may choose to indicate what they hope most to get out of the class experience, both from a pure subject matter standpoint and otherwise.

Students should declare the achievement intentions in two ways. You will be given a sheet with the different competency categories along with the three achievement categories: proficiency, mastery, and mastery with distinction. Students should mark on this sheet what they intend to accomplish as an outcome goal for each competency. Submit this sheet along with your statement. The second declaration comes with your statement where you talk about your achievement goals. Use the above guidelines to discuss a few specific competencies and why you selected the achievement objective that you have.

Also submit a plan as to how you intend to achieve those aspects. Where do you intend to excel? How will you address your challenges? How will you structure your time? What will be your strategy for working on homework and programming assignments, for preparing for exams? An important part of the Competency & Portfolio system is that students not just indicate desired achievement levels but that they be reflective and specific about how they intend to achieve them.

You may opt to think of this statement as a contract, but it is a contract with yourself – to hold yourself accountable to your personal goals. There is nothing binding about your selections; you are perfectly free to change your mind along the way to aim for a higher or lower level of achievement than what you indicate in this statement. This statement is important for me to serve as your advocate to help you execute your plan and also so that I can provide feedback along the way which will help you determine if you are "on plan" or not. I consider myself to be successful if I can help you to reach your personal goals.

This is not intended to be a lengthy exercise. In addition to the attached sheet, please try to keep your plan and comments to 2 pages (1 piece of paper, front/back). Bring two copies of your plan and check sheet with you to your individual office hour meeting. We’ll discuss your plan, make any adjustments that seem prudent, and then we’ll each keep a copy.