

PROJECT TITLE

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Aims Here you are describing the long-term goal of the project. What do you want to achieve by the end? What is the ultimate goal of this work? For example, the primary aim of this document is to have students produce suitable aims and objectives for their COSC480/490 projects. While the aims and objectives documents is not an assessed deliverable, a clear definition of what is to be done, and a bit of planning of how it is to be accomplished, is paramount to the project's success.

Objectives Objectives list the milestones that you need to achieve in order to achieve the projects aim(s). It's a rough plan for what needs to happen in what order. It's best to list the objective in bullet point form. For many projects the objectives might follow a pattern like this:

- background reading; going through the literature; learning about the research field;
- setting up of some kind of system for the project; getting the environment for experiments working;
- conducting preliminary experiments; implementation of a basic/simple approach; producing base case results;
- trying method 1; recording the results;
- trying method 2; recording the results.

Timeline It's a good idea to set up a bit of a timeline for the project – without it it's very hard to gauge your progress. What you put here is not written in stone. In fact, it's not unusual for the aims and objectives to get revised at the half way point through the project.

- Mar: doing the background;
- Mar-Apr: system setup;
- May-Jun: preliminary results (Interim report);
- Jul-Aug: working on method 1;
- Sep-Oct: workin on method 2 (Final report).

The aims and objectives should fit in 1-2 pages.

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