

BA 3843 — Spring, 2009
Final Exam

Answer the questions as instructed below. Answer clearly and neatly in typewritten (word processed) form. If I cannot read your answer or understand your grammar, or if you provide multiple answers, the answer will be wrong. Be specific and direct in your answer. If you have questions about the intent, meaning or purpose of the question -- ASK.

You may have notes, books or other reference materials that you desire. However, **you must do the exam alone**. If you do work together on the exam, or if you copy the answer from someone or if you discuss possible answers, this will result in a grade of zero (0) for all parties involved.

Turn in the complete exam in order, stapled in the upper left corner to me by *Monday, May 11 at 10:30 pm*. If I am not in my office, you may leave it under the door or in my mailbox.

I will be available, especially by email, for questions.

Part A: Complete the question below.

Create a table in Oracle that includes a student's name, id number, major, current gpa, number of hours completed and number of "honor points" earned. (Note "honor points" refers to the sum of points associated with the grades in classes completed; each class for which someone gets an A gets 4 points, etc.)

Create a web-based system (using ColdFusion, javascript and html) that will:

- a. Allow a student to enter his or her data into the table
- b. Compute the average GPA for students in his or her major
- c. Display the average GPA for students in his or her major both with and without the new data considered

Remember, I will evaluate your answer: (a) to determine if you know how to use ColdFusion and JavaScript *and* (b) to determine what you have learned about decision support systems.

For this question, print the url on your exam paper *and* email me the url.

Part B: Complete any two of the questions below (33 points each)

2. Why is having a data warehouse critical to the success of decision support systems? Explain all the impacts.
3. How would you evaluate a decision support system to determine if it is effective? Discuss the procedures for testing and the mechanisms for evaluation.
4. We discussed five action language options for DSS. Compare and contrast them. Discuss how you would know which one to use.
5. Propose a DSS for a situation in which the desktop metaphor would *not* be appropriate. What metaphor would be appropriate (include a rough sketch) and explain why it would help the decision maker arrive at better choices.
6. Why is OLAP important to decision support systems? What additional value does MOLAP provide? Be specific.
7. Suppose you work for a company that has two equal divisions, one in the United States and the other outside of the US (you may select the second country). What issues would need to be addressed to ensure the system is equally useful in both countries? Be specific.